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THE TIMES

THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

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Germans rates decision today

Bundesbank holds key to pound's fate

By COLIN NARBROUGH AND ROBIN OAKLEY

RENEWED government attempts to talk up the sagging pound failed to convince the City as speculation intensified that today the Bundesbank will tighten Germany's monetary reins, forcing Britain to follow suit.

With the Bundesbank's policy-making council widely expected to raise one of its key lending rates — the discount rate — from its present record level of 8 per cent, investors continued to flee from the pound and other European currencies to the safe haven of the mark.

Repeated assurances from John Major and Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, that there will be no devaluation of the pound within the European exchange-rate mechanism, left the currency markets unconvinced that sterling would be immune from a wider realignment against the mark. This is regarded as inevitable in the event either of the Bundesbank taking too tough a

stance or further setbacks for the Maastricht treaty.

In his traditional end-of-term letter to Tory MPs, who leave Westminster today for three months of exposure in constituency complaints about the depth of the recession, Mr Lamont held out no prospect of an early cut in interest rates.

He warned his colleagues that they must look to the medium-term, saying: "We must not throw away long-term security for the illusory benefits of a quick fix." The government, he said, won the election because of the public's belief in John Major, the Tory commitment to low taxes and the fact that the government did not "play politics" by making unsustainable cuts in interest rates before April 9.

Mr Lamont emphasised the need for a rigorous public spending round, arguing that, if the Treasury failed to cut public spending inflation was curbed, low taxation aims would be at risk. His letter pointed out that since

Britain joined the ERM, inflation had been cut from 10.9 per cent to 3.9 per cent while interest rates had been trimmed nine times.

Howard Davies, the new director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, yesterday threw his weight behind opinion in favour of an ERM realignment to loosen the link between British and German interest rates.

In an interview on BBC Radio's *Today* programme, he said the CBI considers British interest rates are higher than necessary to make progress towards inflation targets. He called on the government not to continue giving the impression of "blindly following a particular relationship between our interest rates and German interest rates which is not justified by the (economic) fundamentals", otherwise the British economy would stay in "this corrugated bumping-along-the-bottom position".

Currency market analysts were unimpressed by ministers' verbal massaging of the pound. Jim O'Neill, head of research at Swiss Bank Corporation, said the markets "certainly don't believe Mr Major or Mr Lamont". Instead of helping the pound, their comments focused undue attention on sterling when there were currency problems in Italy, Spain and other ERM countries. "The currency market is looking for safety in marks and the problems of the ERM will not go away," Mr O'Neill said.

Avinash Persaud, currency economist at UBS Phillips & Drew, described the government talkup as "negative". Given the strength of speculation against the pound, the flows of funds would easily outweigh any verbal intervention. Mr Persaud noted that while Whitehall appeared agitated, the Bank of England was keeping cool and did not appear to have intervened to prop up the pound.

Not only does the vote contrast with the cabinet's decision to restrict a 24 per cent rise for senior civil servants, judges and generals to only 4

per cent, but it also contrasts with the 40 Conservatives who joined the opposition in voting for MPs' office costs allowances to be raised by nearly £7,000 more than the government had intended.

Downing Street said that the prime minister was dismayed by the Commons vote, which saw government proposals to restrict the maximum office costs allowance to £33,190 a year overturned by a majority of 127 as MPs voted for a figure of £39,960.

In a further implied rebuke, officials indicated that John Major did not expect to use his full allowance for his work in Huntingdon, even though his is one of the biggest constituencies in the country.

Ministers were furious with MPs who, they believed, had set the wrong example at a time when the government is appealing for pay restraint.

They were joined by a number of Tory MPs, several of whom went to the Commons fees office to make plain they would be claiming less than the full sum allowed.

MPs had argued that many were subsidising secretaries and research assistants out of their own income and needed better equipment to do a proper job. But John MacGregor, the transport secretary and a former Leader of the House, said: "There is no doubt that the workload of MPs has hugely increased and there is a demand for better back-up facilities. But I do not think this is the year to go for the whole recommendation. I voted against that and I regret that it happened."

Gerry Malone, the Tony party's deputy chairman, said the debate was something of a "shabby little shocker". He added: "Commons leader Tony Newton was right when he said we need to show

concerned Tory MPs, is the contrast with deniers who, like MPs, are basing their claim on the expenses involved in doing their job and insisting that it is not a question of pay levels as such.

Some ministers believe that Tories who voted for bigger allowances have played into Labour's hands, because a higher proportion of Labour MPs keep their research assistants and secretaries in their constituencies to boost the local party organisation.

Tory rebels, page 7

FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

JUST when you thought the European Community mandarins were at bay they're taking an interest in the rubbish.

If Brussels has its way, every household will have to keep nine dustbins at the door so that different grades of rubbish can be separated at source for recycling. And that takes no account of the mass of unwanted Community paperwork.

The basic idea — unveiled yesterday by Karel van Miert, the EC's new environment commissioner — is radical but laudable enough. He wants member states to cut the amount of consumer packaging they dump by 90 per cent. But carrying out the plan would mean keeping a gallery of bins

to house different categories of refuse. As a result, it seems unlikely that dustmen will settle for less than £100, or maybe 150 Ecu, when they ring the doorbell for a Christmas box.

Mr van Miert's bright green vision confirms that Brussels' taste for snappy environmental gestures has not vanished with Carlo Ripa di Meana, his colourful predecessor, who left last month to join the new Italian government.

Mr van Miert described the 50 million tons of packaging waste dumped annually by the Community's 344 million consumers as a "modern scourge". If approved, his legally-binding proposals will mean that in ten years' time EC countries will recycle, or use for energy, 90 per cent of this waste mountain.

Asked why Brussels would not at-



Catching them young: Bill Clinton, who was last night heading for formal nomination as the Democratic presidential candidate, takes a break from jogging through Central Park, New York, for a spot of traditional electioneering with six-month-old Teddy Dresner. Mario Cuomo, governor of New

York, was due to nominate Mr Clinton at the Democratic convention in Madison Square Garden after a primary season that saw the candidate emerge at the head of the most united Democratic party since 1976.

Clinton poised, page 12
King of compromise, page 14

Operation on Pope successful

From JOHN PHILLIPS
IN ROME

THE Pope was in a satisfactory condition in hospital last night after a benign tumour "like a big orange" was cut out of his intestines during an operation at which Bank of England support would be required under ERM rules.

The lira was under intense pressure yesterday, after an announcement that the Bundesbank will hold a press conference after today's council session. The Italian currency dropped sharply, forcing the Bank of Italy to sell marks for lire. The dollar also retreated, shedding about a penny in late trading in Europe.

The mark has firmed for the past week on market expectations of tighter German credit policy designed to slow excessive growth in the money supply. Today's session of the Bundesbank council will review the money supply targets in light of growth rates almost double the target range of between 3.5 per cent

Confirmed on page 18, col 5

**Leading article and Letters, page 15
Pound hurt, page 19**

Continued on page 18, col 1

Mother murdered on walk with son

By STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A YOUNG mother was ambushed and killed yesterday as she walked through a London common with her two-year-old son and dog. The little boy, who was also beaten around the head, was found clinging speechless to the body of his mother.

The identity of the woman, who was killed in a copse on Wimbledon Common for about ten days after the surgery, which was carried out by a team led by Professor Francesco Crucitti who operated on him twice in 1981 after an assassination attempt.

A joint statement by the Vatican and the hospital said: "The operation was radical and curative because the lesion was of a benign nature." The Pope's gall bladder was removed.

Professor Corrado Manni, the anaesthetist, said surgeons removed from the Pope's intestine a rather bulky mass, like a big orange ("massa piuttosto voluminosa, come una grossa arancia"). A second operation was decided against and the Pope responded to surgery "like a young man of 20". The Pope woke up "a little dazed" in the underground operating theatre.

He said the boy had been viciously beaten and was in deep shock. He had been taken to hospital and was still not able to talk. Mr Bassett advised women using the common, which is popular with dog walkers and strollers, to be sensible about walking alone in secluded areas.

The victim, who was in her early twenties, had been attacked as she walked down a path through oak trees and bushes a few minutes after parking her Volvo car nearby. The family's black mongrel dog was off its lead when the mother was suddenly dragged from the path. The killer may have seen her begin her walk and trailed her, or seen her earlier and lain in wait.

He chose a spot almost completely out of sight from open ground and another path beyond the trees which is often used by walkers. The woman was pulled about five yards from the muddy path under bushes and branches and attacked with a knife. The murderer beat her son with his fists before fleeing.

Police were called after the body was found by another walker half an hour later and the entire 1,100-acre common was sealed off by police. After hours of searching, officers admitted that the murderer had escaped, but the murder scene remained cordoned off as teams of officers looked for clues.

Silent child, page 3

Wasting paper on the nine-dustbin household

**FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS**

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Asked why Brussels would not at-

tack the root of the problem, the trend to over-packaging, Mr van Miert said: "I don't think we can ever go back to the days where everything was wrapped in newspaper, like fish and chips."

The Belgian commissioner said it would be up to member states how they boosted recycling. His figures showed Britain to be less thorough at recycling than many of its EC partners. We recycle 28 per cent of our glass, at the low end of a scale that ranges from the Dutch, who recycle 70 per cent, to the Greeks, who manage just 22 per cent. No figures for paper recycling were available.

A new EC labelling scheme will tell consumers what type of packaging they are buying and how to dump it. Of the 90 per cent of packaging to be collected, 60 per cent will be recycled and 40 per cent incinerated to produce electricity.

The initiative has further inflamed Denmark, which Mr van Miert said would have to come up with methods of recycling aluminium. The Danes ban aluminium drink cans because they have an efficient bottle recycling programme, and see no reason why they should start processing aluminium. But Brussels says Denmark must open its doors to beers cans because of the internal market.

"If everybody imposes their own bans the market will be fragmented,"

Mr van Miert said. "You need to set up a system that covers free movement. Presumably, that means even of rubbish. We may soon be frisked for plastic wrapping by customs. The plans will be examined by EC environment ministers in December."

Bosnian peace falls to lowest bidder

Christie's was the unusual venue for the latest Yugoslavia peace talks, reports Eve-Ann Prentice

The fine art of diplomacy went on display at Christie's yesterday when Lord Carrington tried to sell peace to the fighting factions of Bosnia.

If Radovan Karadzic, the chief warlord of Bosnia's Serbs, felt disoriented among Christie's treasures, he may have drawn some comfort from a collection of rifles and shotguns being auctioned during yesterday's peace talks. He was also unnerved when a bomb scare in the Haymarket nearby snared traffic around the auction house.

Lord Carrington held separate talks at Christie's, of which he is chairman, with Mr Karadzic, Haris Silajdzic, the Bosnian foreign minister, and Mate Boban, the Croat leader in the former Yugoslav republic. It was the latest and perhaps gloomiest of Lord Carrington's attempts to bring about agreement under the auspices of the European Community peace conference.

The plan had been for the opposing sides to meet face to face at a hotel later, in a session chaired by Jose Cutileiro, the Portuguese diplomat. But the chances of that faded when Mr Silajdzic refused to meet Mr Karadzic, declaring: "I am not prepared to sit with child killers. Never."

Mr Karadzic, for his part, emerged from his talks with Lord Carrington to make the latest of many futile offers of a unilateral ceasefire. He added that he had also agreed to land corridors being opened up to bring aid to besieged civilians in Bosnia, before smiling broadly and gliding away in a Volvo.

Minutes later, the Bosnian foreign minister arrived. Mr Silajdzic's mood of deep pessimism about the chances of success in the talks cannot have been leavened by his mode of transport — a black cab.

Mr Silajdzic emerged from his meeting an angry man. "We are being asked to talk at gunpoint. We ask for the killing to be stopped, the de-

Continued on page 18, col 3

Stadium shelled, page 13
Diary, page 14

TODAY IN THE TIMES

TRAVEL WITH THE MASTER



Seve Ballesteros, winner of three Opens, gives his hole-by-hole guide to Muirfield
Page 28

GET A JOB ON THE WAY



Passport to France meets people on the fast track and the slow through Europe
Life & Times
Pages 1 and 4

STEP BACK TO SEE THE BEST



Catherine Deneuve stars in *Belle de Jour*, for Geoff Brown a film of pure pleasure which is
25 years old
Life & Times
Page 3

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INDEX	

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Taylor urges judges to move with the times

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES should "move with the times", come out of "purdah" and end their isolation from the media and the rest of the criminal justice system if public confidence is to be restored, Lord Taylor, the Lord Chief Justice, said last night.

Recent miscarriages of justice had highlighted the perception of judges as "stuffy and remote". That was increasingly unacceptable. "I believe we have been overprotective and over-cautious and the time has come to adjust our approach to meet the expectations of modern society," Lord Taylor, who took up office in April, said.

"The judiciary does not need to put itself into purdah by refusing ever to speak out of court about its work and about legal issues," he told judges, including Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, at the annual Lord Mayor's dinner at Guildhall. "Silence is attributed to arrogance, complacency or inability to answer criticisms."

Lord Taylor, whose speech marked a formal and radical departure from the policy of Lord Lane, his predecessor, also emphasised the growing workload in the criminal courts and spoke of a "growing crisis" in the Court of

Appeal criminal division, where the number of appeals against conviction was up 26 per cent on last year. Against the background of recent miscarriages of justice, he called on judges to be more vigilant, however strong the evidence appeared in a case, and to leave issues of fact to juries. Judges, he added, should also be more considerate and sensitive in their treatment of jurors, witnesses, litigants and relatives.

Judicial independence was of "fundamental importance", and Lord Taylor pledged himself to maintain it. The concept was, however, "calculated to raise the eyebrows, if not the hackles, of non-lawyers and especially journalists". They regarded it as a "canc phrase designed to justify judicial remoteness and favoured status," he said. "They say, for independence, read isolation and privilege."

Judges should remain independent from any influence or pressure from the executive, from parties to litigation, or from lobbying. They must use their own judgment and discretion. But the judiciary did not need to "put itself into purdah" by refusing ever to speak on its work and legal issues. Lord Taylor spelled out how judges should come out of their perceived isolation. Judicial independence would not be endangered if judges exchanged views with others in the justice system.

Private discussions on policy with chief constables would "clearly be unacceptable", but for a judge to chair a committee on the whole range of court services in his area would not damage his independence and "much good may come from such co-operation". Judges' treatment of jurors, witnesses, litigants and their relatives should "also be much more considerate and sensitive than I fear it often is", Lord Taylor added. For that reason he had agreed to Lord Justice Farquharson, chairing the new Criminal Justice Consultative Council.

On miscarriages of justice, Lord Taylor trial judges should, however, be more considerate and sensitive than I fear it often is", Lord Taylor added. For that reason he had agreed to Lord Justice Farquharson, chairing the new Criminal Justice Consultative Council.

Lord Taylor further emphasised the priority of reducing the backlog for appeals. In cases where the person was not in custody, the waiting time was up to a year and a half and in custody appeals it was several months. Waiting time for judicial review cases was now 14 months and heading towards 19 months by next January.

British Aerospace, the



Honoured: Bernard Weatherill, Commons Speaker from 1983 until retiring after the April general election, after his introduction to the Lords yesterday as Baron Weatherill, of North East Croydon

Army bases open door to Soviet republics' scrutiny

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ARMY barracks and air bases are to be subject to inspection from the end of this week by teams of military experts from the former Soviet republics and Warsaw Pact nations, Archie Hamilton, the armed forces minister, announced in the Commons yesterday.

The inspections will be carried out under the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty, which has now been ratified by 27 of the 29 signatories to the agreement. Belarus, Armenia, which

hope to ratify it by October, have agreed that the treaty can be enforced on a provisional arrangement from midnight tomorrow.

The first inspections could take place on Saturday. Britain has declared 235 military locations for possible inspection under the CFE treaty.

Defence companies, such as British Aerospace and Vickers Defence Systems, have also been warned to be ready for possible challenge.

The treaty covers five cate-

gories of weapon systems, tanks, heavy artillery, armoured combat vehicles, combat helicopters and combat aircraft. Any sites, known under the treaty as objects of verification, or COVs, that have stocks of such equipment will be liable to a maximum of 30 inspections a year.

British forces in Germany, Cyprus and Gibraltar also come under the treaty and will be subject to 17 inspections a year, officials said yesterday.

Britain's inspecting teams from the joint arms control implementation group, based at RAF Scampton, Lincolnshire, are also now geared up to visit the former Soviet Union to check on holdings of CFE-limited equipment.

Officials from the Scampton team said yesterday that all the countries they had visited in practice inspections had co-operated and that they did not foresee difficulties in spite of the break-up of the Soviet Union and the complex distribution of tanks and other equipment among its republics.

Britain will have six points of entry for visiting inspection teams: Scampton; Brize Norton, Oxfordshire; Lyneham, Wiltshire; Shawbury, Shropshire; Belfast and Edinburgh. Lyneham will also be the entry point for Gibraltar.

British inspectors will not be able to examine Russian tank and artillery stocks in the Baltic states, since Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia are not CFE signatories, although the equipment stationed in these three countries are covered by the treaty.

Saudis linked to jet fighter project

BY OUR DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

SAUDI Arabia could help Britain to produce the European Fighter Aircraft on its own if Italy and Spain decide to follow Germany by withdrawing from the £20 billion collaborative programme. Defence sources said yesterday.

If Britain is forced to consider building EFA without its European partners, export sales will become the most vital factor in assessing the cost-effectiveness of the programme. The RAF needs 250 of the aircraft, too small a production run to make the plane affordable.

Ministers have not yet seriously considered the idea of continuing alone with EFA because they hope Italy and Spain will remain in the programme. The Germans may also be presumed to rejoin the programme once they realise that there is no cheaper solution.

Although Saudi link-up with EFA is highly speculative at this stage, it is believed that Saudi Arabia could become equity-holders to help British industry fund the substantial production investment which would be needed if Britain built the plane on its own.

British Aerospace, the

prime contractor for EFA, is convinced that the fighter will have good export potential, since there will be few comparable rivals. Officials believe that about 300 could be sold abroad.

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Power of strike in Docklands move disputed

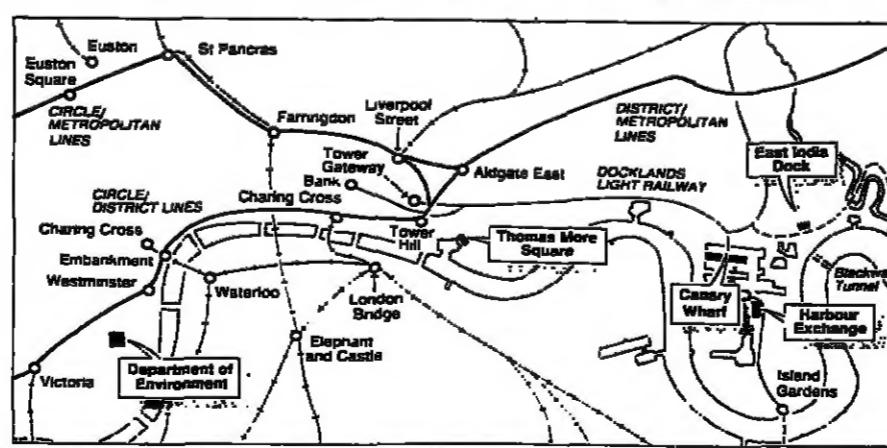
BY TIM JONES

UNION leaders and government officials clashed yesterday over the effectiveness of a one-day strike to protest against proposals to move staff from the environment and transport departments to London Docklands.

Both departments said the action had only a negligible effect. A spokesman for the environment department said that only 300 out of 3,000 employees had taken part.

Robert Newman, a union official, said: "It has been a greater success than we were expecting. Only the senior grades have gone in and they apologised for doing so."

Hugh O'Connor, another union official, said: "There are enough people in there to keep the place ticking over. You don't expect a one-



day strike to disrupt the running of the department nor to change the government's mind."

Four of the most probable sites for the move include Thomas More Square, Canary Wharf, East India

�� after tax of £4.25 million. The corporation owns 518 acres available for sale. It has sold 682 acres since it was set up in 1981, at an average price of £500,000 per acre. Its land is valued at £100,000 an acre.

Michael Pickard, the chairman, said the corporation had a difficult year

because of the recession and the resulting high levels of empty office space. The civil servants' strike was not necessarily anti-Docklands. "I can understand there are people who are unhappy about it but we don't think it is a strike against Docklands at all. They don't want to go anywhere. If it was Croydon they would still be going on strike," he said.

The corporation hopes to

hear news by the end of September on the Jubilee line extension to Canary Wharf.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Rail ticket scheme to change track

Negotiations are under way to extend InterRail, the discounted international rail ticket used by generations of students to travel around Europe, to the Baltic states and the Commonwealth of Independent States. It was disclosed yesterday. Tens of thousands of InterRail users could, however, face additional charges to travel in France, Italy, Spain and Portugal during July and August because the national rail organisations want to ration student rail tickets to reduce overcrowding during the peak holiday season.

The standard InterRail ticket provides those under 26 with a month's unlimited rail travel in 24 European countries for £180. In addition, an InterRail ticket for those over 26, introduced last year, provides unlimited travel in 23 countries for £180 for 15 days and £260 for a month. Ross Furby, the managing director of British Rail International, said: "InterRail is very much alive. But it will have to be modified and adapted to meet changing circumstances."

Leading article, page 15
Life & Times, page 1

IRA murder charge

Donna Maguire, an Irish woman, has been charged with murder and attempted murder in Germany during alleged IRA attacks. The charges are connected to the murder of Major Michael Dillon-Lee in Dortmund in June 1990 and the bombing of a British barracks in Hanover the previous month. Ms Maguire, 25, was extradited last October from Holland, where she and three other Irish people were cleared because of lack of evidence of involvement in the murder by the IRA of two Australian tourists in the southern Dutch town of Roermond in 1990.

Manager's death fall

A 43-year-old bank manager fell to his death from a seventh-floor office window in May while measuring up a set of venetian blinds, an inquest at the City Coroner's Court was told yesterday. No one witnessed the accident but it is thought that Terence McDowell, of Walton on the Naze, Essex, overbalanced while standing on a window ledge between the inner and outer panes of double glazing. Mr McDowell, a manager at the Bank of Montreal, had gone to a vacant office to measure the blinds, which he thought could be used in an office on the second floor. His secretary, Terri Brewer, told the hearing that Mr McDowell was "his normal laughing and joking self" when he left the office, taking a tape measure and mobile phone with him. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

Dogs seized in woods

Police and the RSPCA joined forces to break up a suspected illegal dog-fighting ring, seizing 27 animals in isolated woodland in north Wales. The dogs, described as pit bull types, were found chained to trees with old barrels for shelter. Bones and the remains of sheep's heads were scattered around. Two men were being questioned last night under the Dangerous Dogs Act, which bans the breeding and keeping of unregistered fighting dogs. Police and a dozen RSPCA inspectors, acting under a search warrant, swooped on the site near a quarry just yards from the main road between Mold and Denbigh, Clwyd. Seven adult dogs and 10 puppies were found in what is thought to be the largest seizure of banned dogs since the act was introduced earlier this year.

1970s jail crumbling

Parts of a prison built less than 20 years ago are cracking up because they appear to be built on faulty foundations, according to a report by Judge Tunnicliffe, Chief Inspector of Prisons, right. Some of the accommodation at Glen Parva young offender institution and remand centre, near Leicester, built in the early 1970s, may now have to be demolished.



Move to jail editor

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the attorney-general, yesterday won approval in the High Court to seek to jail Stewart Steven, former editor of the *Mail on Sunday*, for publishing the deliberations of the jury in the Blue Arrow fraud trial. Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Popplewell gave Sir Nicholas leave to seek to commit Mr Steven, and the newspaper's City editor, Clive Wolman, and to fine Associated Newspapers. The article, published on July 5 under the headline "Common People... Common Sense... Common Justice", had "disclosed in detail the deliberations of the jury", Philip Havers, the attorney, said. It was the attorney's case that this breached a prohibition in the 1981 Contempt of Court Act. Mr Havers said, in granting leave, the judges said that the case should be heard before the end of the year.

Woman electrocuted

A coroner warned yesterday that all second-hand electrical equipment should be checked after being told that a young housewife was electrocuted by a £10 washing machine. Wendy Handy, 32, was electrocuted as her brother checked the machine after it started leaking a day after it was delivered to her home in Walcot, Swindon. John Elgar, the Wiltshire coroner, who recorded a verdict of death by misadventure, was told that the accident was caused by a fault in the washing machine, which was at least 22 years old. Philip Allen, an electrician with Southern Electric, said a wiring fault in the plug had caused the washing machine to become live. Ms Handy was standing in a pool of water and probably touched a tap. Her brother escaped electrocution as he was wearing rubber-soled shoes.

Holocaust law demand

Denial of the historical reality of the holocaust, in which at least six million Jews died, should be made a criminal offence. Michael Latham, director of the Council of Christians and Jews, said last night. The council called for any publication of the Goebbels diaries to be accompanied by reminders that Goebbels and other Nazi leaders were mass murderers. Extracts from the diaries have appeared in *The Sunday Times* and the *Daily Mail*.

Parcelforce to be privatised

BY PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Post Office's parcel delivery business Parcelforce is to be privatised after losing more than £10 million in the past two years.

The government is to insist on the maintenance of a universal parcel service at a uniform and affordable price, thus protecting rural services, but this seems likely to be carried on by the Royal Mail, Michael Heseltine, president of the board of trade, signalled. Parcelforce, with some 13,500 employees, will be offered for sale in the rapidly growing parcel delivery market.

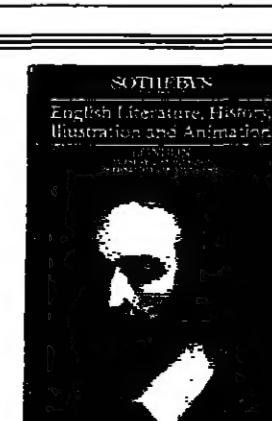
It needs significant investment to succeed and the government has decided that this should be funded by the private sector. Management and staff will be given financial help by the Post Office to put together their own bid for the business if they wish, and such a bid is expected. The Post Office was "very pleased" with the offer.

Parcelforce, once part of the Royal Mail, now enjoys only 2 per cent of the lucrative "next day" market. However, it has 34 per cent of the "later than next day" market, and there is likely to be keen interest from other distribution companies. Although Parcelforce had £24 million in losses in 1991-2, in the second half it posted a profit. Labour MPs alleged it would be the prelude to moves by Mr Heseltine to sell off other parts of the Post Office, including the Royal Mail.

Sir Bryan Nicholson, the Post Office chairman, said: "The PO board supports the Government's view that privatisation will provide the commercial freedom and access to capital that Parcelforce needs."

CORRECTION

A news agency report (July 11) incorrectly stated that the money raised by Terry Waite's appeal for Y Care International would be shared in full. In fact all the money from the appeal will go to Y Care.



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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

Boy found clinging to murdered mother on common

BY STEWART TENDER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

THE two-year-old boy who watched yesterday as his young mother was killed in broad daylight on Wimbledon Common in south London was so shocked that he was unable to cry or speak.

When found by a passer-by the child was covered in mud and bloodstains clinging to his dead mother in a copse.

Last night as one senior detective called the killing the worst he had come across in 26 years the boy was being treated at a south London hospital for trauma and injuries. Police believe that he was also beaten, deliberately or because he tried to defend his mother, before the killer fled.

The woman, whose throat may have been cut, was found by a walker.

Detective Chief Inspector Mike Wickerson, head of CID in the Wimbledon area, said the child looked stunned. Mr Wickerson said: "The child was completely covered in blood and dirt and in a complete state of shock."

The mother and child were out walking the family mongrel dog. When the boy was found he was still wearing his

trainers and blue tracksuit trousers but his green sweatshirt had been cast aside. He was comforted close to the scene of the murder by a woman doctor who arrived with the ambulance called by police.

The doctor volunteered to go to hospital with the boy and a policewoman and the two women comforted the child until relatives were found. The boy could not be a witness because of his age but he could provide clues and details for police if they decide to try and coax the story of the murder from him. A child psychiatrist may be brought in to help the boy and police to piece together a murder which may have taken place in a matter of minutes.

With the aid of drawings and careful questioning over days police could get some basic details which could be matched to information from other witnesses on the common. Children are questioned about crime usually with the help of parents, social workers and teachers. Many are much older and police do not know how well

"The attack might have been so vicious and so fast she did not have time to scream," said Mr Wickerson. He said the attack had been "absolutely horrendous. The worst murder I have ever seen."

The muddy path and smashed branches show that there had been a struggle. The dead woman was left lying on her side and her clothes had been left in disarray. She was found by a walker who was on the path she had been using with his own dog. He saw what he thought was someone sun bathing, drew nearer and found the murder scene.

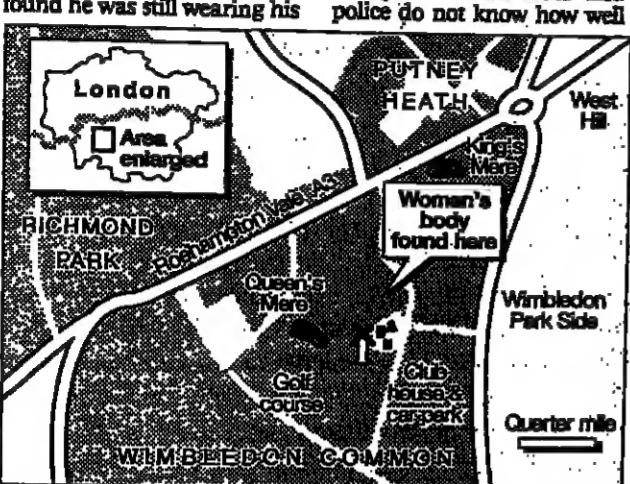
Police believe the woman lived near the common. She was not wearing a wedding ring and did not have a handbag but police found a document which could identify her. They checked the car park by asking the golfers and other visitors to stand by their cars until the Volvo was left unclaimed.

The scene of the murder remained cordoned off as officers worked beneath the trees. The spot is between two paths often used by walkers with dogs and children. Out in the open six police dogs combed another area. Other officers on horseback and on scrambler motorcycles also searched the common which was checked at one point by a police helicopter. Everyone coming off the common during the day was questioned.

In August 1969 a 23-year-old police officer was stabbed to death at Queen's Park lake, in the centre of the common. A month later a 29-year-old clerk was murdered by a gang on a "queer-bashing" expedition.

Women living in the areas have complained frequently about cases of indecent exposure and some, even before yesterday's murder, said that they feared walking alone on the common.

Wimbledon murder, page 1



Murder shatters tranquil common

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE brutal murder yesterday of a young mother has shocked the suburban tranquillity of the communities who live around Wimbledon Common, a calm sprawling beauty spot where youngsters can play well away from the dangers of busy London streets.

Yesterday's attack, carried out in broad daylight, threw a shadow over the area. It took place just north of one of Wimbledon's main landmarks, its windmill, which was built in 1817 and milled corn until the 1870s. It was here that Lord Baden-Powell wrote *Scouting for Boys* and the mill is generally regarded as the centre-piece of the common.

Police yesterday warned women to take extra care and to avoid all secluded parts of

the common. With schools breaking up for the summer holidays parents are worried at how to keep their children well away.

Wimbledon Common has seen violent crimes in the past. In the Sixties and Seventies it was regarded as "the sin centre of south London" and was for a time an internationally famous haunt for homosexuals.

In August 1969 a 23-year-old police officer was stabbed to death at Queen's Park lake, in the centre of the common.

A month later a 29-year-old clerk was murdered by a gang on a "queer-bashing" expedition.

Women living in the areas have complained frequently about cases of indecent exposure and some, even before yesterday's murder, said that they feared walking alone on the common.



Murder hunt: police searching for clues yesterday on Wimbledon common

Yugoslav stowaway seeks asylum

By LIN JENKINS

A YUGOSLAV teenager who escaped across Europe arrived in England as a stowaway aboard a Norwegian ferry.

Andi Duka, who was found tired, confused and hungry in a secure area of Tyne Commission Quay shortly after the ferry docked on Monday, says that he came from Pec on the Yugoslavia-Albania border.

He was taken to a children's home run by North Tyneside council where he quickly made friends. He was invited to attend the school of one of the children yesterday, but staff thought it better for him to acclimatise to Britain and took him shopping for new clothes.

On Tuesday, a court gave him temporary leave to stay and remanded him to the care of North Tyneside social services. A council spokesman said: "A young person in the home have a very supportive. He has already a friend with some of them. He

speaks some English but not very much."

Officials have doubts about his account of the journey, but they believe he travelled from the disputed area of Kosovo overland to Milan, Hamburg, Stockholm, Oslo, and Bergen before stowing away on *The Venus*, a Norwegian Color Line ferry that operates between the port and Tyneside.

Mike Robson, of the social services department, said: "He is okay, fit and healthy but remains bewildered. He does not know what is going on and needs some space to help him settle."

Andi arrived with no money and no passport or documents detailing his identity. Efforts were yesterday being made to find a translator who could help officials to discover why he wanted to escape Kosovo, which has suffered heavy fighting.

Home Office officials, who are sympathetic to his plight, say there are difficulties in processing a request for political asylum from a minor. Usually,

only a person aged over 18 years can be granted immigration status and there is no set procedure for those under age.

"The immigration service are aware that it is unusual for a child to arrive on his own in this country and will treat the situation accordingly. At present we do not know where his family are, but we do not believe they travelled with him," a spokesman said.

The application is likely to take more than a year to be dealt with. The Home Office said that it accepted Andi's story that he had hitch-hiked across Europe. "We will not be releasing details because he is making a case for asylum on the basis that he is terrified of returning to Yugoslavia."

Dag Romslø, UK manager of Norwegian Color Line ferries, said that Andi was found on the quayside in a restricted area as about 800 passengers disembarked. The company was investigating how he boarded the ship.

More soldiers killed, page 13



Supreme understatement: a model wears a blue silk crepe evening dress from Sir Hardy's new winter haute couture collection

Sir Hardy scales new heights

By LIZ SMITH
FASHION EDITOR

SIR Hardy Amies, established as London's leading couturier since 1946 and the designer responsible for first putting the Queen into shoulder pads, unveiled his winter haute couture line yesterday.

After half a century of dressing such a visible customer as the Queen, Sir Hardy is a master of faultless tailoring and the supreme understatement of the "little dress" that serves as the backdrop for his clients' jewellery.

In his new collection for winter he carries on the tradition of the grand evening dress with the perfectly sculpted decolleté in black lace and velvet as well as ankle-length columns of crêpe or twinkly sequins, often worn wrapped up in a taffeta overskirt.

He also supplies his discreetly dressed clientele with tailored evening suits with the effortless cut of a hacking jacket but made up in scarlet satin or twinkly brocade. "A well-dressed woman is the one whose clothes never look out of place in the country," he says.

Apart from her acceptance of shoulder pads, the Queen rarely dabbles in fashion's seasonal changes. The royal hemlines just cover the knee while the rest of Sir Hardy's society clients can differ over long, wrap-over styles, and slim cocktail dresses elongated to mid-calf length.

The royal dressmaker, who will be 83 tomorrow, is the only British designer with an international empire of lucrative licences.

Sir Hardy: introduced Queen to shoulder pads

Ministers approve Green agency

By MICHAEL McCARTHY
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE proposed Environment Agency for England and Wales, controlling pollution of air, land and water, was approved yesterday after a Whitehall battle that has delayed it for a year.

The government has decided that a key part of the new body, the highly successful National Rivers Authority, should be transferred into it whole and not split up, as John Gummer, the agricultural minister, had wished.

The decision means that work can proceed on legislation to set up the agency, announced by John Major last July as a centrepiece of the government environmental programme, but Michael Howard, the environment secretary, said that a bill was unlikely to be introduced before November 1993, meaning that it will be mid-1994 at the earliest before the agency can begin operations.

The agency, a body of potentially formidable power, will embrace the NRA, which controls water quality, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution, which polices heavy industry, and the waste regulatory functions of local authorities. The small Drinking Water Inspectorate, which many had expected to be included, is to stay for now in the environment department. Mr Howard said the government was considering how to enhance its independence.

The agency, a "one-stop shop" covering air, land and water, would be a major step forward in protecting the environment, Mr Howard said, at a press conference, flanked by David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, and Mr Gummer.

Although ministers were at pains to emphasise unanimity, it is clear that the agriculture minister has had to give way. Mr Gummer wanted only the NRA's pollution control functions to be part of the agency, with its responsibilities for flood defences and land drainage reverting to his ministry. The prospect set him in conflict with the NRA chairman, Lord Crickhowell, and environmentalists, and the dispute cost the government its chance to bring in the agency last year.

Charities want lottery cash share

By SIMON TART
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CHARITIES stand to lose £232 million a year if a national lottery is introduced, according to a survey published today.

The National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), which commissioned the research from NOP, is demanding half of the proceeds of the lottery in compensation. It has called on David Mellor, the heritage secretary, whose department is studying responses to the national lottery white paper before drafting a bill, to ensure that the interests of charities are safeguarded.

The government hopes that the lottery will be operating by 1994, to benefit the arts, sport, heritage and small charities from the expected £3 billion turnover.

The NOP findings, based on interviews of 1,909 people in May, suggest that 7 per cent of the lottery takings would come from money normally given to 300,000 charities a year. Judy Weleminsky, NCVO director, said: "This is a manner of deep concern for the voluntary sector whose income is already under pressure because of the effects of the recession."

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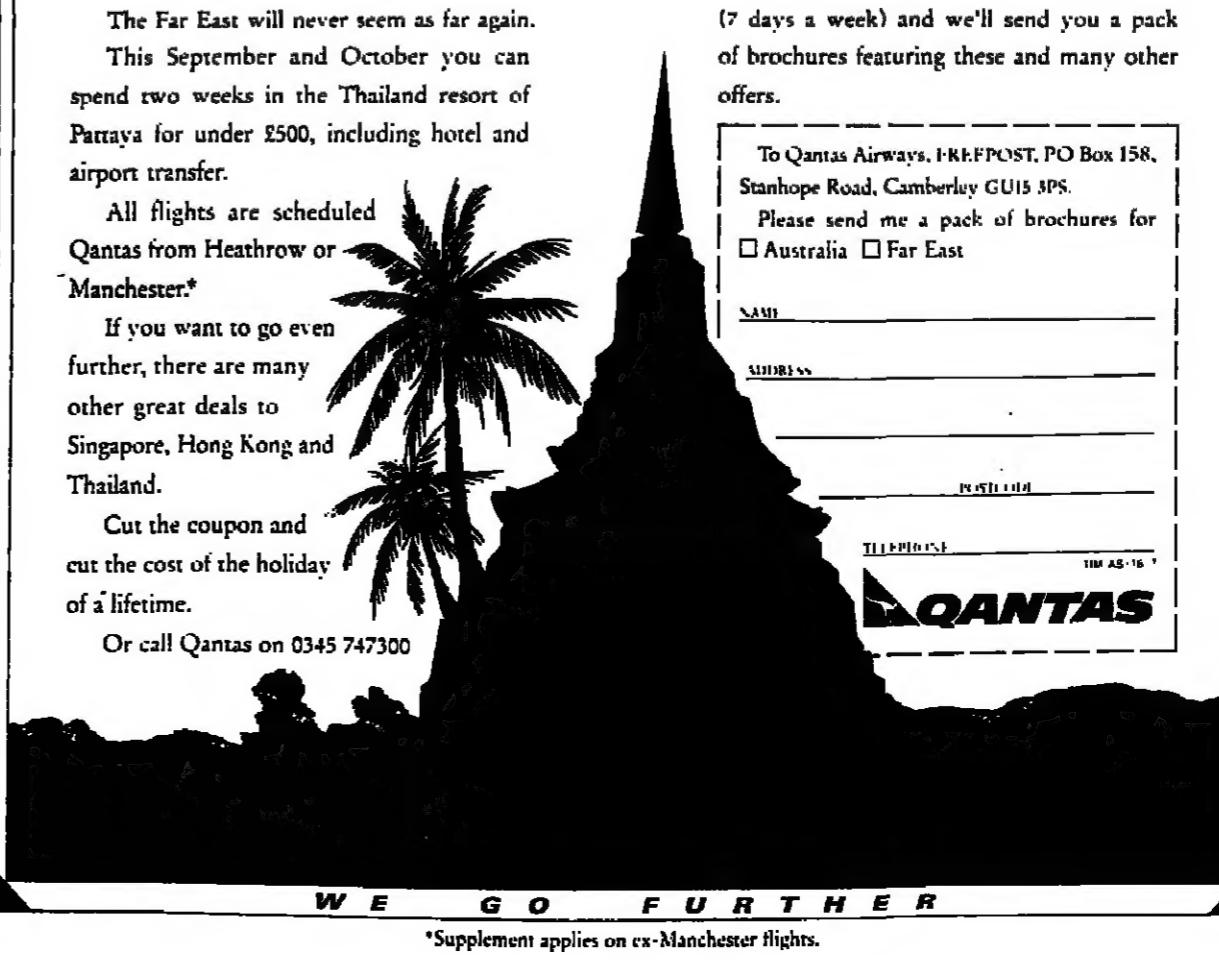
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*Supplement applies on ex-Manchester flights.

Young quickly abandon barrier contraception as relationship grows, study finds

Desire to show trust 'is raising Aids risk'

By JEREMY LAURANCE
SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

Half of young people having sex with a new partner for the first time use a condom, but as soon as the relationship becomes established they switch to the contraceptive pill, exposing themselves to the risk of HIV and Aids and other sexually transmitted diseases, researchers say.

More young people are using condoms, but, because they are seen as appropriate for casual relationships, in which there may be a risk of disease, their long-term use in a relationship is seen as indicating a lack of trust.

Speaking at the launch of a report, *Promoting Sexual Health*, published by the British Medical Association's Foundation for Aids, Valerie Kent, lecturer in psychology

at Goldsmiths' College, London, said: "Going on the Pill is a symbol of the importance of the relationship. Condoms are disliked because they are unsanitary, messy and unreliable — like padding in your wellies. The risk young people feel they are exposed to is that of pregnancy, not HIV. Trusting on a condom can indicate doubt about a relationship."

A study at Goldsmiths' in which 166 people aged between 16 and 24 were interviewed about their sex lives showed that most of them approached sexual encounters much less casually than older people believe. Sexual intercourse was seen as the point at which a barrier is crossed, confirming and extending a relationship. The production of a condom by one partner was often a signal that intercourse could take

place. However, their association with youth, inexperience, transience, and mistrust means that their use is soon ended, as inappropriate.

To get the message about sexual health across, Aids campaigns should include other sexually transmitted diseases such as chlamydia, herpes and genital warts, which are "vastly more common" and can have serious long-term consequences. Hilary Curtis, director of the Foundation for Aids, said: "It is much easier for people to relate to information on these diseases when they realise the risk is relevant to their own lives." Dr Curtis said: "About 600,000 people attended sexually transmitted disease clinics last year. That is very different from the few with HIV and Aids, which is, thankfully, still rare."

The government's target of

a 20 per cent cut in gonorrhoea cases by the end of the decade, set in the *Health of the Nation* white paper last week, was too narrow, Dr Curtis said. "It is not the biggest sexual health problem, but it is the best marker," she said. "I very much hope the prevention programme will be broad-based."

However, Derek Bodell, of the Health Education Authority, said that embarrassment about other sexually transmitted diseases, not evident with HIV, could have a counter effect if they were included in the Aids campaign. He said: "There is a wide belief that these diseases are curable, but people also see a tremendous stigma in them — no one wants to talk about them. We have to get the balance right."

□ Health advisers yesterday entered the ethical debate

over HIV testing and called for a 50 per cent increase in the number of counsellors who notify HIV-positive patients and their partners (Ali Roberts writes).

The Society of Health Advisers in Sexually Transmitted Diseases published its first statement of policy amid growing public concern over the notification of those who have been exposed to HIV infection. Partners should not be told of their exposure without the permission of those who have HIV, and responsibility for telling others lies with the infected individual or with a health adviser, the statement says.

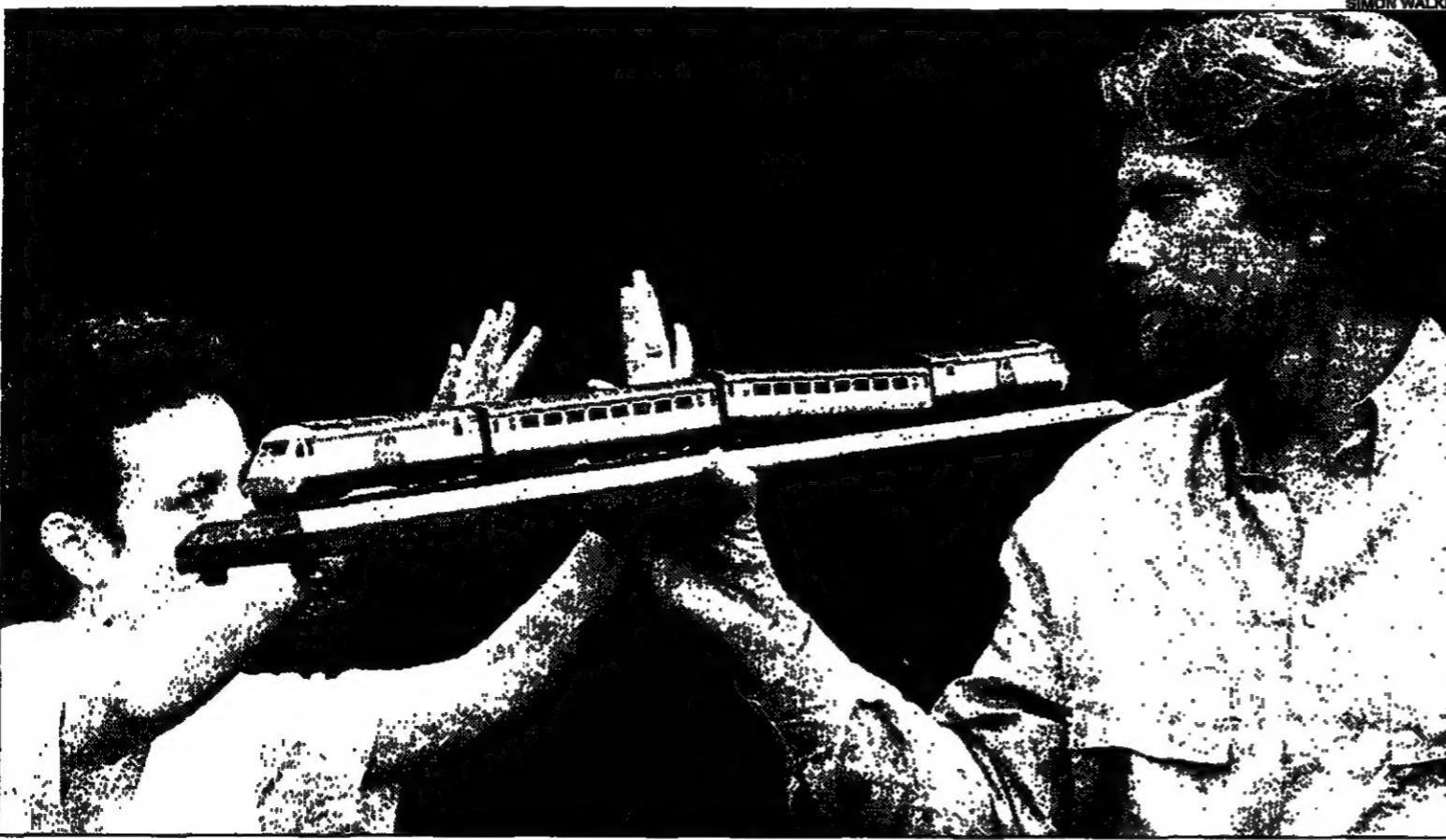
Wendy Majewska, vice-president of the society, said that confidentiality was an absolute necessity to encourage those at risk to be tested. "If people are deterred from coming forward, the disease

will simply be forced underground and controlling it will be much harder," she said.

The 250 sexual health advisers employed in Britain say that more posts must be created to cope with an increasing workload and a heightened role in control of HIV infection. The society wants the health department to set up proper training courses.

Contact tracing can take a long time and begins with a pre-test discussion about who to tell if results are positive. The issue is discussed again after the test, and names of partners may be given to advisers. The adviser then writes to the partner, on unheaded paper, asking him to contact a name, without saying why.

Those who respond are told that they have been exposed to an unspecified sexual disease, and are offered screening and counseling.



In training: Richard Branson at home yesterday with a model of the express he hopes to be run between London and Edinburgh

Branson aims high with express train service

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

GOVERNMENT plans to open up the rail network to private sector companies will get off to a flying start on Tuesday when Richard Branson, the airline entrepreneur, outlines his proposals for an express service between London and Edinburgh.

By leasing an InterCity 125, and paying British Rail an agreed fee for running on the 393 miles of track between London and Edinburgh, Mr Branson hopes to provide passengers with a quality service capable of attracting back to rail substantial portion of the 1.6 million passengers who fly between the two cities each year.

Although the first passenger franchisees are not expected to come into operation much before April 1994, Mr Branson will be seeking approval from transport department officials to begin running his experimental express service from next year.

If the pilot scheme proves successful, Mr Branson hopes to expand the service using InterCity 225s. Br's flagship trains.

The proposed express service will offer passengers a four-hour journey between London and Edinburgh,

equivalent to the service provided by BR. In addition, passengers using Mr Branson's Virgin service will also have airline-style food and drinks included in the ticket price, as well as access to modern business communications technology. With the introduction of InterCity 225s, journey times could be cut by half an hour.

Once the new express service is operating, Virgin intends to begin marketing fly-rail tickets, giving passengers the option of using either service on each leg of their journey.

The Virgin express service could dramatically alter patterns of air-rail travel on the London to Edinburgh route, where 1.6 million people a year travel by air and 800,000 by train.

Mr Branson is convinced that the scheme could also encourage more people to switch from air to rail travel, reducing the slots needed for short-haul routes, and helping to free Britain's congested airports. He is eager to experiment with Virgin rail services on other BR routes.

Dismissing allegations that the government's rail privatisation proposals were little more than a "cherry picker's

charter", a spokesman for Virgin said: "It is impossible to cherry-pick a particular route which the current operator says is unprofitable, and which the operator will not run himself." Private sector access to the rail network, along with the provision of airline-style services, "have become second nature in countries all over the world but they have been filed in the 'too-difficult cupboard' in Britain", he added.

Sir Bob Reid, the BR chairman, is understood to have written to all BR managers and staff yesterday, in an effort to boost morale in the wake of the government's rail privatisation white paper.

The privatisation plans were criticised yesterday by the Scottish branch of the Railway Development Society. Douglas Smart, its secretary, said the break-up of the network would cause confusion and instability.

"The government seems to have learnt nothing from the disaster of bus deregulation," Mr Smart said. "What the railways require is not privatisation but increased financial support on the level of other European countries."

German sell-off, page 13

Virgin postpones South Africa run

By NICHOLAS WATT

VIRGIN Atlantic Airways has postponed a planned service to South Africa until at least October next year, saying that the take-off and landing slots it was allocated at Heathrow airport make the service "inoperable".

The airline was allocated

two slots a week from this winter for its service to Johannesburg with no guarantee of slots in the summer. The airline won the right to compete with British Airways and South African Airways on the route after the two governments signed a treaty last month on air services. The airline has pledged to undercut rivals' fares by 40 per cent to 60 per cent.

With so few slots at Heathrow, Virgin could not spend the £55 million it had planned to invest on the South Africa route. Richard Branson, Virgin group chairman, ruled out flying from Gatwick as unprofitable.

He said: "It is just too sad for words that finally having got the South African government to move it should come to this."

Tim Walden, chairman of the Heathrow Scheduling Committee, rejected Mr Branson's statement. He said: "The application by Virgin Atlantic for slots this win-

ter to operate a service between Heathrow and Johannesburg was met in full. The claim that Virgin Atlantic is unable to inaugurate a new service between London and South Africa due to a lack of slots is wholly misleading and inaccurate."

Mr Branson said the British government should change the slot-allocation system which discriminated against newer airlines. "Slots at Heathrow are taken by whoever comes first regardless of what they make of them ... The government should give a directive to the slot management committee to give ... slots to the person who will make best use of them."

Airlines did not own slots

and if they decided to cancel a route the slot should be opened to competition. British Airways had cancelled its Dublin service to put more flights on routes planned by Virgin. The government should act because Virgin's expansion plans represented less than one per cent of Heathrow's slots, he said.

Virgin has not ruled out

asking the Civil Aviation Authority to force British Airways to give up some of its slots or even taking the matter to court.

Theft case

A former secretary of Eltham, the Leonard Cheshire Foundation home at Upper Colwyn Bay, Clwyd, appeared in court yesterday accused of stealing £138,000 from her former employer. Colwyn Bay magistrates remanded Sheila Langston, 45, a widow, of Cae Llwyd Bach, Penmachno, Gwynedd, on bail until August 5. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Death message

A man who was depressed about his chronic back pain slashed his throat and then wrote an obscure message on his bedroom wall in his own blood, an inquest at High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, was told yesterday. Leslie Bennett, 46, of Iver Heath, had knifed himself several times, including plunging the weapon through his jugular vein. A suicide verdict was recorded.

Laura 'fair'

Laura Davies is now strong enough to ride a tricycle, an official of the Children's Hospital in Pittsburgh said. The condition of the four-year-old Manchester girl, who underwent a liver and small intestine transplant at the American hospital last month, was upgraded on Tuesday from serious to fair.

Laura recently began sampling strained foods to get used to eating.

Cars recalled

Some Yugo cars, excluding Sana models, have been recalled for checks on engine fuel systems by Zastava (GB) of Reading, Berkshire. Yugo Cars' British headquarters. The recall was ordered after it was found that some of the fuel pipes were of poor quality and could crack. Fuel systems found to be defective will be replaced free of charge. The transport department is monitoring the recall.

Sewage charge

The National Rivers Authority has decided to prosecute Yorkshire Water for allegedly pumping raw sewage onto Sandend beach near Whitby last August bank holiday. Scarborough borough council will also be charged. No date has yet been set for the hearing. Yorkshire Water, which faces a maximum fine of £20,000, said last night that it would admit the charge.

Halford plans 'bugging' plea in Euro-court

ALISON Halford is planning to take claims that her telephones were bugged to the European Court of Human Rights.

The spiralling cost of the sexual discrimination case before an industrial tribunal in Manchester has brought pressure on all sides to reach a settlement. Lawyers meeting yesterday in Manchester were understood to be discussing the terms under which Miss Halford, 52, would drop her case against the chief constable of Merseyside, HM Inspector of Constabulary, the Home Secretary and the Northamptonshire police authority.

Miss Halford says she was barred from promotion because she was a woman. The Equal Opportunities Commission is covering her legal costs. Estimates for the hearing could run into next April have clearly alarmed the Home Office which has already said that a settlement

The costs of the Alison Halford tribunal are bringing calls for a settlement. Ronald Faux looks at the case

of the case would be welcomed.

When it resumes on Monday the hearing enters its 40th day and costs will once more begin clocking up costs at the formidable rate Miss Halford, James Sharples, chief constable of Merseyside and jointly the home secretary and HM inspector of constabulary are each represented by a QC with junior and solicitor. The cost of this representation alone is likely, according to one legal source, to reach more than £4,000 a day. Each barrister could be paid a brief fee of between £10,000 and £15,000 plus up to £1,500 a

day. A junior barrister would probably be on half this rate while solicitors for a senior fee earner would receive between £150 and £250 an hour.

An informed estimate puts the legal bill so far at more than £300,000 plus the cost of two earlier High Court hearings. The final sum would also include the fees of solicitors not at the hearing.

ing but working on evidence for each side. Earlier attempts to reach a settlement failed, apparently, when the Merseyside police authority refused the terms demanded by Miss Halford. These are understood to have included a pension as a deputy chief constable, all disciplinary proceedings against her dropped and a course named after her at the

Bramshill police college in Hampshire. What is now believed to be under discussion is a cash settlement in the region of £250,000 with all disciplinary proceedings against her dropped. As an assistant chief constable with 30 years police service Miss Halford would be eligible for a pension of almost £30,000 a year.

The settlement details now being worked out in Manchester will be put to an emergency meeting of the Merseyside police authority tomorrow. Miss Halford has almost completed her case and it seems likely that the authority could decide that the cost is too high.

Rev Makin, solicitor for Miss Halford, yesterday denied claims that £300,000 compensation plus full pension rights amounting to £1 million had been offered to Miss Halford to settle the case. "A settlement fee has not even been discussed. It's all nonsense."

Miss Halford and Jim Sharples, her chief

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

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Whips 'punished' in committee row

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservative whips' tactics in trying to remove "unsound" MPs from Commons select committees suffered a fresh setback last night with the election of Robert Adley, the railway enthusiast, as chairman of the transport committee.

The shambles caused by the whips' interference in the selection process led to MPs on the committee rejecting Alan Haselhurst, Conservative MP for Saffron Walden, who was regarded as the "whips' choice" by six votes to four in a private session. Instead they opted for Mr Adley, Conservative MP for Christchurch, a persistent critic of the government's transport policies. He was elected by eight votes to two with the support of Labour MPs sponsored by transport unions. The election is looked on by Tory backbenchers as just punishment for the whips, who rid themselves of Nicholas Winterton, a member of their "awkward squad".

In recent weeks Mr Adley led a series of rebellions on the standing committee examining the paving bill for privatising BR. In one division, the government was

savaged from defeat only by the chairman's casting vote.

Roger Freeman, the transport minister, appeared resigned to the appointment last night, commenting: "I look forward to having an educated exchange if and when I am called upon to give evidence. I am a great supporter of the railways, as I know he is."

As the 16 committees completed the election of their chairmen, Marion Roe was elected the new chairman of the health committee in place of Mr Winterton.

In a tight contest for the defence committee chairmanship, Sir Nicholas Bonsor, MP for Upton, beat off the challenge of other Tory hopefuls, including Winston Churchill and Peter Viggers. The Eton and Oxford-educated Sir Nicholas is a military history enthusiast.

Other elections include:

Foreign Affairs: The former Conservative cabinet minister David Howell was re-elected chairman.

Treasury and civil service: John Watts, Conservative MP for Slough, was elected as chairman, replacing Terence Higgins. Mr Watts has been a member of the committee

for six years.

Social security: The Labour MP Frank Field was re-elected chairman. The committee is to pursue its enquiry into the Maxwell pension funds.

Employment: Ron Leighton, Labour MP for Newcastle North East, is to remain chairman.

Scottish affairs: The revived committee, which was suspended for five years, will be chaired by William McKelvey, Labour MP for Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

Science and technology: Sir Giles Shaw, the former Conservative minister and an unsuccessful challenger for the post of Speaker, was elected the committee's first chairman.

Trade and industry: Richard Caborn saw off the challenge of fellow Labour MP Stan Orme to become chairman.

Agriculture: The Tory MP Jerry Wiggin is once again chairman.

Environment: Robert Jones, Conservative MP for West Hertfordshire, becomes the new chairman.

National Heritage: Gerald Kaufman, the outgoing shadow foreign secretary, secured the chairmanship of the new committee.



Sir Nicholas Bonsor: beat off other Tory hopefuls

Dublin ministers go to Stormont

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

IRISH government ministers for the first time joined leaders of the four main parties in the province and the British government for discussions at Stormont yesterday.

The Irish delegation included four ministers and was led by John Wilson, the deputy prime minister, and David Andrews, the foreign minister. The government was represented by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland secretary and Jeremy Hanley, the minister for political development in Belfast.

The Dublin delegation's arrival at Stormont on the edge of Belfast for further discussions in the Strand 2 phase of the process, which began at Lancaster House in London last week, was marked by a small Loyalist protest led by Cedric Wilson, the former DUP mayor of Castlereagh.

The discussions were chaired by Sir Ninian Stephen, the former governor general of Australia. They were devoted to cross-questioning of the Irish government over its proposals for establishing a new relationship between Northern Ireland and the republic.

As the sessions continue today and tomorrow, this process will develop with ques-

tions of the SDLP, the government and the two Unionist parties on their opening presentations. The debate in this phase centres on Dublin's desire to build on its gains made under the Anglo-Irish agreement to enhance its say in the government of Northern Ireland, as against the Unionist determination to reduce the republic's involvement.

Most participants in the process now accept that it will not be over by July 27, when the pre-arranged gap between meetings of the Anglo-Irish conference is due to end. It is likely that the two governments will agree to further delay the conference meeting scheduled for that day.

It is not yet clear whether the talks will continue throughout the summer or break off for a time during August. This is not simply a matter of allowing the politicians a summer holiday. The SDLP is regarded as favouring a break so as to allow it to take stock of a process which appears to have developed slightly against its interests in the past few weeks.

As the sessions continue today and tomorrow, this process will develop with ques-

AROUND THE LOBBY

Pollution agency to be set up

The government is to set up a new independent pollution agency in England and Wales. Michael Howard, the environment secretary, told the Commons at question time. It will bring together the functions of the National Rivers Authority, HM Inspectorate of Pollution and the waste regulations of local authorities. Legislation will be introduced at the earliest opportunity.

Cleaner sea

Compliance with European Community standards on bathing waters around Britain's coasts has gone up to 75 per cent from 51 per cent six years ago, David Maclean, the environment minister, said at question time. A £2 billion programme is in hand to bring virtually all bathing waters up to standard by 1995.

Weapons ban

Disguised firearms such as pen pistols, umbrella shotguns and guns masquerading as briefcases will be illegal from January 1. Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, said in a written reply. There are to be ex-gratia payments to people handing them in.

Council costs

Local councils spend on average £2,000 a year for every adult. John Redwood, the local government minister, said at question time. Councils are on average in debt by £1,000 for every person as a result of failing to balance their budgets.

Parliament today

Commons (9.30): Summer adjournment debates. Lords (11): Boundary Commissions bill, second reading.

Job losses blamed for economic ills

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH membership of the European exchange rate mechanism should be combined with government intervention to ease pressures on the economy, Labour said yesterday as it highlighted job losses during the recession.

Tony Blair, the shadow employment secretary, said that the failure of the economy to bounce back after the election, as the Conservatives had promised, only reinforced the case for the Opposition's proposed £1 billion recovery package of training schemes and tax breaks for industry. The country was in danger of "tearing itself in two" in despair over the misery of unemployment.

Speaking on the eve of the release of today's unemployment figures for June, which are expected to show another sharp rise to well over 2.7 million, Mr Blair said: "If we are to remain within the ERM, which is right, then the government cannot stand idly by. We will have the constraints of ERM membership without taking active measures to compensate for the lack of flexibility which membership brings."

With Conservative MPs becoming increasingly restive about ERM membership and the government's inability to boost the economy by cutting interest rates and devaluing the pound, Labour is expected to open a second front over the summer by emphasising

the need for interventionist policies cushioning the impact of high interest rates.

Mr Blair released figures demonstrating the damage done by two years of falling output and the government's failure to soften the blow of rising unemployment.

He said that the young and the long-term unemployed, those without a job for at least a year, had borne the brunt of the downturn. The number of unemployed people under the age of 25 had risen by 72 per cent between April 1990 and April 1992. The rise in the South-East was 200 per cent. This compared with a 67 per cent national increase in unemployed claimants. The number of the long-term unemployed had grown by three times the rate of the rest of the jobless.

As many people were chasing vacancies today than at any time during the last two years. The government's £200 million employment action scheme, providing six months of work experience for the long-term unemployed, had failed to mop up the increase. It was providing places for fewer than 5 per cent of the people who had lost their jobs since its launch in June.

Rising jobless figures were the single biggest factor in holding back the recovery, particularly in the consumer and housing markets, Mr Blair said.

Ashdown urges tax shift

BY PHILIP WEBSTER

THE burden of taxation must be shifted from savings and employment to penalties on damaging activities such as pollution, says Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader.

In a further attempt to set his party apart from Labour on the economy, Mr Ashdown said taxation should not be talked of in terms of redistributing wealth but of creating opportunity. If the proposed EC petrol tax were adopted along with the full taxation of company car benefits it would raise enough revenue to cut tax by 5p in the pound, he said.

Mr Ashdown told the American Chamber of Commerce in London: "The current received wisdom is that the voters will not vote for a government which does not

promise to reduce personal taxes. I do not think this is true, but what is certain is that Britain cannot afford to believe it is true, since we need to create the climate of public investment which is essential to economic success."

He called on British politicians to recognise that they were losing their power to control overall economic policy. "For years politicians have tried to stimulate increased economic growth by pulling the levers and pushing the buttons. They should kick the habit."

The government should concentrate on so-called "micro" measures, such as training programmes, investment in public education and transport, and measures to help small businesses.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

POLITICS & GOVERNMENT 7

Rebellion by backbenchers gives MPs a 38% increase for office costs

Tory rebels defend revolt over allowances

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JERRY Wiggin and his staff were not exactly cracking open the champagne yesterday after the tearoom Commons revolt that won MPs an extra 38 per cent in their office costs allowances. But the Weston-super-Mare MP, his Australian secretary and his young researcher were looking forward to a less niggardly operation once the additional £6,800 winging out of the Exchequer in the small hours came on stream.

Mr Wiggin, 55, has been a Conservative MP for 23 years. He is a former minister, and as chairman of the all-party Commons agriculture committee he is one of the most senior backbenchers. He was also one of the leaders of the backbench uprising that, with the support of the opposition parties, overwhelmed the prime minister's appeal for restraint and a more modest 14 per cent increase.

Mr Wiggin was unapologetic yesterday. He pointed to the report from the Top Salaries Review Body as justification for the rebellion, saying that the government was only making matters worse by interfering with its recommendations, then making a fuss when overruled by the Commons. His office dealt with up to 80 letters a week from constituents, many of which required individual attention and innumerable follow-up letters to government departments.

Forty-one Tories opposed the government: Rupert Allason (Tottenham), David Atkinson (Bournemouth East), Michael Bates (Lambeth), John Biffen (Cheshire North), Andrew Bowden (Highgate-Kensington), Angela Brinkman (Thirroul), Ian Bruce (Dover St.), Peter Butler (Milton Keynes NE), Michael Colvin (Romsey & Waterloose), James Cram (Surrey), Edward Cross (Plymouth S.), Quentin Davies (Southend Central), Stephen Dwyer (Chesterfield), Hugh Dykes (Harlow), Harold Elliston (Blackpool N), Nigel Evans (Ribble Valley), Roger Evans (Monmouth), Michael Fabriano (Sanderson Mid.), Sir George Gardiner (Religate), Teresa Gorman (Ecclesley), John Gorst

ments, local authorities and other public bodies. His secretary also had to keep his diary, deal with phone calls and help him in his outside business interests. "The welfare officer role of the MP has increased inexorably since I first joined in 1969," he said.

The fuss is about the fact that the government has intervened. If they had not intervened but accepted the report, I rather doubt that you lot [the media] would have bothered about it very much.

Mr Wiggin brushed aside talk of "greedy MPs voting themselves a backdoor pay rise". The new office costs allowance of £39,960, covering staff salaries and equipment, was only paid by the Commons' fees office in response to itemised claims and, short of outright fraud, he saw little scope for MPs to pocket a personal windfall.

But what of the many MPs who employ their wives as secretaries? "The only MPs who pay their wives expect and get from them at least the performance the money would buy from somebody else. Most wives who work in this place get paid relatively badly compared with the free market because they are captive. I don't think there is anything inherently wrong, if your wife is an efficient secretary or administrator, in paying her." Moreira, his wife, works for him occasionally on



Office politics: Jerry Wiggin, one of the Tory rebels, with his secretary Maria Niall in their Westminster office

Westminster the poor relation in world politics

By JILL SHERMAN
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH MPs' office expenses have lagged behind most of their counterparts in Europe, America and Australia over the past decade.

In spite of Tuesday's vote which will give them nearly £40,000 in office allowances, they still fare badly against MEPs who get £74,952 a year. A comparison of allowances published by the Top Salaries Review Body shows that British MPs' staff allowances are less than half those in 12 other developed countries. The MPs are certainly worse off than their col-

leagues in Canada, Australia, France and Greece, New Zealand and the Belgian senate.

In the United States, Canada, Australia and Germany legislators have suites of offices, while British MPs are lucky if they get a single room in Westminster.

The American allowances are so great that they are dismissed as "deviant", while provision in Australia and Canada was partly explained by the sheer size of the countries, the report says. British MPs should, however, be brought nearer in line with the larger European countries such as France and Germany, it says.

French MPs get a staff allowance of £29,420 plus £27,998 for research assistants. A single room is provided for each deputy although no room is provided for staff. MPs get free calls from Paris to their constituency, free postage from the Palais Bourbon and free headed notepaper. They also a free first class rail pass and half-price rail travel for spouses, 60 return flights to their constituencies and taxi fares reimbursed.

In Germany there is a general allowance of £22,368 tax-free, covering secretarial and research staff, subsistence and constituency expenses. Secretarial help is met from the general allowance, with shared research assistants provided free. Typing pool facilities are also available. Basic office equipment is provided and German MPs get free railway travel, free telephone calls and unlimited stationery.

MEPs are given £1,824 a month for office management costs, telephone and travel, a secretarial allowance of up to £4,320 a month, and a communications allowance of £725 for data processing and fax machines. In addition they get £126 a day for attending a meeting with the EC, plus £63 for overnight accommodation. MEPs are entitled to a mileage allowance, reimbursed air travel to attend meetings and £1,813 a year for other travel.

At present British MPs get a maximum of £27,166 office cost allowances plus £2,717 for staff pension contributions. They get shared or single office accommodation, free telephone calls for parliamentary business from Westminster, free postage, an unlimited supply of envelopes and headed paper. They are also entitled to first class rail, sea or air vouchers for journeys to their constituencies or home and mileage ranging from 13.8 to 61.9 pence a mile.

DAVID Mathieson's value to Stuart Bell and other Labour MPs he has worked for is his knowledge of Westminster and the way the place works. But he believes the term "researcher" is something of a misnomer.

His progress is fairly typical of a Labour MP's assistant. Now 31, he started working without pay for Frank Dobson in 1984 while studying for his PhD in modern Labour party history at the Institute of Historical Research. His main contribution was a report on infertility services.

When Mr Dobson was elected to the shadow cabinet, he employed Mr Mathieson as his assistant for something less than £5,000 a year. He saw his role as "making an MP more efficient".

"There is so much about the House of Commons and Parliament that can only be learnt from experience or an MP wastes time wandering around the corridors," he said. "An MP needs people around him who can save his time by looking at specific projects, liaising with backbenchers, the press, lobbyists and others around Westminster."

One of the skills a good researcher picks up is putting down parliamentary questions. "A lot of time is spent on PQs. It becomes something of an art form because ministers are becoming more and more sophisticated in fobbing you off with noncommittal replies," Mr Mathieson said.

Conservative MPs often find those with private incomes willing to work for free, although their usefulness is often limited by lack of experience of Westminster's ways. As with MPs, it is the way of life which is the key attraction for those fascinated by politics.

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A RACE APART

Roundhouse theatre to have new owner

CAMDEN council is poised to sell the Roundhouse, the former theatre and concert venue in north London, to Keatway Leisure, a little-known company. The future role of the grade two listed building was still unclear last night.

One of Keatway's three directors is the property developer Paul Bloomfield. The council has provisionally accepted an offer of £895,000 from the company, which has promised to spend another £400,000 on clearing asbestos waste on an adjacent site. The company made the highest of five bids that were considered and has ten days to finalise negotiations.

Keatway Leisure is a subsidiary of Keatway International, which, under its former name of Benlox, mounted a £1.9 billion bid for Sir Terence Conran's Storehouse group in 1987. After the bid failed, the Benlox shares collapsed.

Amin Al-Dahlawi, a Saudi Arabian sheikh, has been Keatway International's chairman and major shareholder since May. Mr

**Andrew Lycett
and Simon Tait**
on the prospects
of a revival for a
celebrated
cultural venue in
north London

Bloomfield, whose bankruptcy was annulled in 1989, was credited with the significant success of the Mountleigh property company in the 1980s.

In 1989 Mr Bloomfield sold out of Mountleigh, which is now in receivership. Keatway International now operates under a scheme of arrangement backed by its shareholders and creditors.

When Camden initially called for tenders in March it specified that they should be for cultural schemes, but the choice of Keatway will disappoint the arts world. The Arts Council said: "Given the Roundhouse's history and potential we are very keen that it should remain for cultural use."

In the sixties and seventies the dome-roofed building

was a theatrical crucible where Arnold Wesker ran his experimental Centre 42 for six years. He was followed by the producer Thelma Holt, who brought the Rustaveli Theatre of Tbilisi, Georgia, there and by the theatre director Peter Brook, who said it was the most exciting theatrical space in Europe.

In 1983 artistic flair succumbed to financial insecurity and the theatre closed. The Greater London Council was eager to continue the building's artistic career with funding after it was bought by Camden council in 1983, but schemes for a black arts centre failed to materialise in the GLC's lifetime.

The Arts Council, which took over joint funding responsibility for the project with Camden in 1986, withdrew in 1990. The project had cost £8 million of public funding and there were allegations of mismanagement. The building was found to have been stripped to the brick, with no electricity or water supplies. Even toilet and kitchen fittings were removed.

A Keatway spokesman



Back in the limelight: the Roundhouse, once described as the most exciting theatrical space in Europe

said that its intention was to turn the building into "a quality centre of arts and culture", involving a mixture of performing arts, including music, ballet and theatre. But Camden said the proposal was for "a spectrum of arts and leisure projects" including shops, a restaurant, rehearsal and performance

spaces, and a general theatre. Keatway has no agreement for any theatre group to use the Roundhouse. The spokesman said that theatre use was only "one of the ideas being kicked around".

Camden would not say which bidders had been short-listed, but among

schemes entered was one from Manchester Royal Exchange for a theatre, an Omnimax cinema, which has a 360-degree screen, an environmental museum and an electronic arts centre. Judith Barnes, leader of the Conservative opposition on the Labour-controlled council, said that it had spent

a fortune on the Roundhouse. "A sale had become imperative, but Camden missed the boat as it usually does," she said.

The Roundhouse was built in 1846 by Robert Stephenson as an engine shed, and was a warehouse for Gilbey's wine company from 1890 until the 1960s.

Patten to help low achievers at school

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Patten, the education secretary, has targeted low achievers in state schools as his priority in this month's white paper to set a framework for state education over the next 25 years.

A drive to cut truancy rates, and measures to encourage greater specialisation in secondary schools, will be included in a package designed to improve the performance of middle and low ability groups.

Writing in *New Statesman and Society*, Mr Patten says that the needs of very bright children should be recognised by schools. "But I regard my job as being aimed, primarily, at trying to help teachers to turn out the great middle-mass of boys and girls happier, better balanced and better qualified from school, and, most crucially, to making life better for that disadvantaged group who have difficulties in learning or in breaking free from the difficult conditions in which they are growing up."

Mr Patten intends to put the onus on parents to help to deliver the improvements he is seeking. He expects them to demand more from schools as they receive more information on pupils' performance, and to take the lead in reducing truancy.

An unpublished report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate shows that parents of children at Japanese schools tend to blame lack of effort, rather than talent, for poor performance. Mr Patten says he would like to see such attitudes transplanted to Britain.

"There will be no hiding place for under-performing professionals, any more than there should be for delinquent parents who fail to meet their side of the bargain by making sure that their children do not truant," Mr Patten writes. "All this, without pain and not immediately, will do for the disadvantaged one-third what we have never properly managed before, and that is to open doors more equally for all."



Patten: opening the doors to equality

Evolution cheated by reptile

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

SCIENTISTS have discovered the remains of a tiny shrew-like reptile that cheated evolution by surviving 100 million years longer than its nearest relatives. The find, details of which are published in *Nature*, has been named *Chroniosaurus paradoxus* or "time wanderer" in recognition of its scientific curiosity.

Although mammal-like reptiles, known as synapsids, have been discovered in abundance, they were thought to have died out about 160 million years ago during the Jurassic period. The new fossil is claimed to be 60 million years old, suggesting that mammal-like reptiles might have lived to see the end of the dinosaurs, believed to have disappeared 65 million years ago.

The find, likely to bring fierce debate, was made by scientists at the University of Alberta and State University of New York. The remains of the new species, discovered at Cochrane, Alberta, consist of a fossilised jawbone with three teeth and two tooth sockets, which palaeontologists are convinced belonged to an advanced synapsid.

Falklands fund to close by end of year

Michael Evans looks at the sometimes troubled background to the Falklands fund, which closes by the end of the year

THE South Atlantic Fund, which has paid £16.6 million to about 1,000 injured Falklands veterans and widows and dependants of those killed in the 1982 conflict, is to close by the end of the year. About £3 million will remain invested for future hardship cases.

The fund paid large sums to the worst of the injured. Simon Weston, the Welsh Guardsman who suffered severe burns from the Argentine attack on the *Sir Galahad* landing ship in Fizroy, received considerable financial help. Others who lost legs received as much as £100,000.

The fund was set up on July 15 1982 after donations started flowing in from all over the world. In the first 18 months, nearly £13 million was received. One of the first decisions was to give an interim payment of £10,000 to all widows, with an additional £1,000 for each child.

Although the fund was to have been wound up after five years, its life was extended because of the number of Falklands veterans who continued to need financial help. Apart from the physical injuries suffered in the conflict, there have been 180 cases of post-traumatic stress disorder.

About half a dozen of the trauma cases are so severe that they may require hospital treatment for the rest of their lives. Lieutenant Colonel Simon Brewis, secretary of the fund, said:

"The setting up of the fund was followed by political dispute because of the delay in paying out the huge sums

being donated by the public. There were also difficulties over the fund's charitable status.

The money was distributed initially according to the criminal injuries compensation scheme which applied to servicemen injured in Northern Ireland. But the way some of the money for the widows was distributed caused considerable anguish. Two widows living close to each other whose husbands had held different ranks were awarded different sums: one £20,000, the other £50,000, because it was judged that one had better promotion prospects than the other.

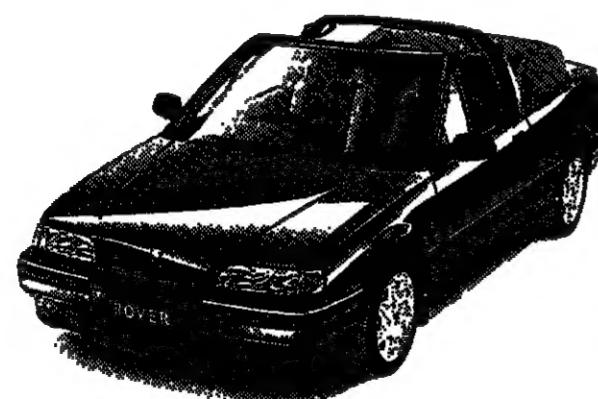
Col Brewis, who took over as secretary in 1989, said that the fund dealt with 1,062 cases, consisting of 262 dead and 800 injured. Although 255 were originally listed as killed in action, a further seven died soon after the war. The same trustees judge that their deaths may be attributed to the war.

The 140 widows from the Falklands conflict — the others were dependants of unmarried servicemen — were paid between £30,000 and £70,000 each.

Col Brewis, a retired Parachute Regiment commander who trained many of the paratroopers who fought in the Falklands conflict, said: "Working for the fund has changed my view of life."

When the fund is closed on December 31, the remaining £3 million invested will be allocated to needy servicemen by the different service charities.

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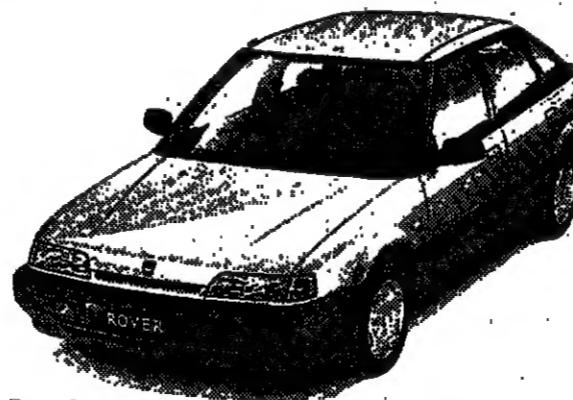
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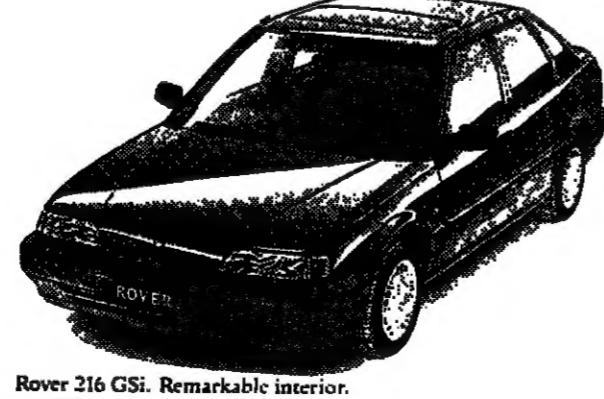
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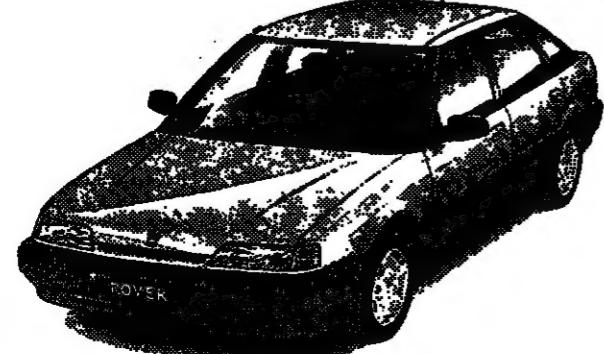
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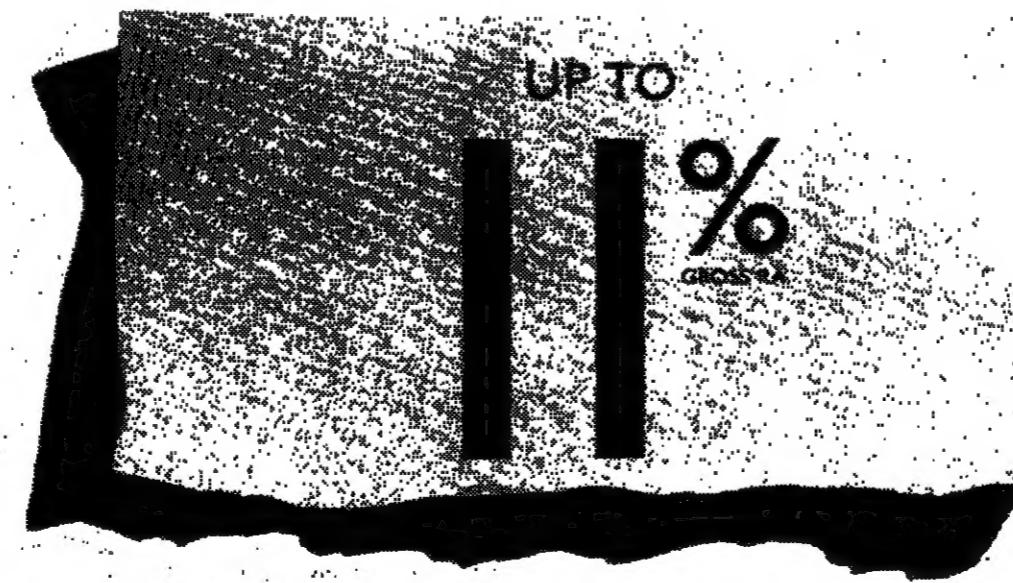
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Alternative agriculture leads to higher prices and lower incomes, ministry survey says

Organic farms strive to make a profit

By MICHAEL HORNBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

HALF the wholly organic farms in Britain are running at a loss and most of the rest are making such small profits that they have little hope of viability, according to a report commissioned by the agriculture ministry.

The survey, the most comprehensive to date, challenges the belief that organic farming can offer farmers a livelihood while avoiding the over-production and countryside destruction seen as inherent in intensive agriculture.

Completion of the study, due last autumn, was delayed because the ministry asked Michael Murphy, the author and a senior economist at Cambridge University's department of land economy, to reconsider parts of it. Mr Murphy said yesterday: "The evidence is that it's difficult if not impossible to run a wholly organic farm profitably even with a very high mark-up for organic produce."

The survey says that arable and horticultural growers

practising organic methods on part of their acreage, while continuing to use manufactured fertilisers and pesticides on the rest, are the only organic farmers whose incomes compare well with those in conventional agriculture. Although as many as 1,000 farmers say they use organic methods, there are no more than 380 genuinely commercial practitioners in Britain, which has 178,000 full-time farmers, the report estimates.

The value of their output is put at one fifteenth of 1 per cent of total farm production.

Mr Murphy said: "We based our findings on the profits and losses of organic farms in the year 1989-90, so there could have been an increase in the number of organic farms since then. But as late as the spring of last year we were unable to identify more than 400 genuinely commercial organic farms."

The report estimates that the average net income of the 117 wholly organic farms vis-

ited for the survey is no more than £1,132 a year, of which £673 is attributable to earnings from bed and breakfast and other non-agricultural activities. Half run at a loss.

Net income, at £3,510 a year, is slightly better when the 121 partly organic farms in the survey sample are included. Mr Murphy said that organic farming could generate only such low incomes even with prices of up to three times those of conventionally grown produce.

Bill Starling, chairman of British Organic Farmers, said: "There are at least 1,000 registered organic farmers according to the latest figures. How does Mr Murphy think they are surviving if they are doing as badly as he says?"

Organic Farming as a Business in Great Britain. (Agricultural Economics Unit, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge, 19 Silver Street, Cambridge CB3 9EP; £15.00)



Taking the bull by the horns: Richard Young, who shunned chemicals 18 years ago. "We had to develop our own market," he says

Family's success shows the way

RICHARD Young, a cattle and cereal farmer, boasts that he has not used a bag of fertiliser or a can of chemical spray since 1974. That was the year in which the 470-acre family farm on the Cotswold escarpment at Broadway, Hereford, and Worcester, went fully organic (Michael Hornby writes).

He and his sister, Rosamond, made losses in some years, but the mere fact that they are still in business 18 years later is evidence that organic farming may be more resilient than cold economic statistics suggest.

"We had to develop our own market," Mr Young said. "About 12 years ago we converted part of the farmhouse to a butcher's shop. We send the cattle to be slaughtered and the carcasses are then hung in our own cold store for a fortnight to mature. We hire a butcher for three days a week to cut the meat up."

Customers travel from hundreds of miles away to stock up their deep freezers. They pay £3.63 a pound for top

side of beef and £5.15 for rump steak, only about 10 to 15 per cent more. Mr Young reckons, than they would pay for conventionally reared beef in the butcher's shop or supermarket.

He says that his customers are getting meat that tastes better and comes from animals fed only on pasture and, in the winter, on silage and hay. All are reared from birth on the farm. The Youngs have 150 cattle.

Mr Young says that he can get up to £240 a tonne for his organic wheat, more than twice the standard price, and that his yields, averaging just over two tonnes an acre, are better than those indicated in the Cambridge study.

"The EC is paying farmers £90 an acre to grow nothing under set-aside and £234 an acre to grow linseed, because there is said to be a market for it," Mr Young said. "Britain imports two thirds of its organic food, yet environmentally friendly organic growers get no financial encouragement or help from the government."

Town aims to honour unknown heroes

By PAUL WILKINSON

STRATFORD had Shakespeare, Liverpool had the Beatles, Rotherham had Mr Chimes. But plans to honour the unsung inventor of the screw-down tap and other local worthies have run into trouble.

The names included Rose Heseltine, a bank manager's daughter, and Ebenezer Elliot, the Corn Law Rhymer. The Labour-controlled council wants to put plaques on the home of Mr Chimes, whose first name nobody can recall, and other perceived celebrities who lived in the South Yorkshire industrial town.

Plans have also been made to mark locations which the councillors believe have great significance, such as the Yates and Haywood factory, a leading maker of stove grates. The council says that it wants to raise "historical consciousness" particularly among visitors, but the idea has been ridiculed by local people.

David Nuttall, a Conservative councillor, said: "I am worried that this could snowball into guidebooks, heritage officers and the rest of it. I just cannot see that sticking up plaques commemorating people no one has ever heard of will do much to boost tourism."

The only vaguely recognisable famous name on the list is Sir Donald Bailey, inventor of the portable military bridge. Miss Heseltine's claim to fame is that she married Anthony Trollope. Ebenezer Elliot was a 19th-century poet.

Chris Gillam, Rotherham's deputy director of libraries, said: "Industrial towns like Rotherham often have an unjustified tacky and smoky image. This scheme would help to give the town a cared-for look." The plaques, costing about £80, will be made of metal or epoxy resin.

Falcons' nests raided

Egg thieves are hampering efforts to boost breeding of the peregrine falcon, one of Britain's most spectacular birds of prey. Two months after an announcement that the birds' population was the highest for more than 50 years, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds reported yesterday that human persecution has caused the failure of more than 50 peregrine nests in Wales and Scotland this year.

At least 5 per cent of breeding peregrines in Britain have failed because of "human interference", the society said. "Many nests have been robbed or destroyed and adult birds shot or poisoned."

More than 40 pairs trying to nest in Wales were unsuccessful, seven of them on Anglesey where a female peregrine was shot on her nest. Some eggs taken from ten nests in Scotland are thought to have been stolen for falconers in Germany and the Middle East.

Royal gift sold
A gun given by Queen Victoria to John Brown, her servant and friend, was bought by the Royal Armouries for £6,600 at Christie's in London. The gun had been made for Prince Albert.

Driver jailed
Adrian Kari, 27, of Croydon, south London, who squirmed ammonia in the face of another driver after an argument, was jailed for five years by a Central Criminal Court judge.

Car fire death
Staff at a computer firm in Basingstoke, Hampshire, tried unsuccessfully to rescue a man who set himself ablaze and burnt to death in his car in the firm's car park.



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10 VOLUME

THE TIMES THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

OVERSEAS NEWS 11

Radicals aim to 'kill a cop a day' in war of townships

FROM MICHAEL HAMILTON IN JOHANNESBURG AND GERALD SHAW IN CAPE TOWN

A NEW slogan has been heard in South Africa's strife-torn black townships: "Kill a cop a day!" Yesterday's police man died in a hail of AK47 bullets in the township of Vosloorus on the East Rand, 14 miles southeast of Johannesburg. At least 106 policemen have been murdered so far this year compared with 137 in the whole of 1991.

A police official in Pretoria said the threat had been made by the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the Pan Africanist Congress. Congress members earlier coined the slogan "One settler, one bullet."

The government has expressed its concern over the apparent campaign against the police. President de Klerk said in a statement yesterday after a marathon session with officials and advisers: "Linked

UN envoy will try to boost talks

FROM JAMES BOND
IN NEW YORK

BOUTROS Boutros Ghali, the United Nations secretary-general, has ruled out any attempt to bring together the leaders of the South Africa's three main factions while they are in New York this week for an extraordinary security council debate. But he will send a special envoy afterwards to try to restart the stalled democracy talks.

A senior UN official said yesterday that no attempt would be made to organise talks between Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress leader, R. F. "Pik" Botha, the South African foreign minister, and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, of the Inkatha Freedom party, even though they are all attending the security council debate.

But the security council is expected to ask Dr Boutros Ghali to send a special representative — probably Cyrus Vance, the former US Secretary of State — to South Africa after the meeting. Diplomats were working yesterday on a draft resolution defining the mandate of the UN envoy.

Nine African foreign ministers are to join the South African leaders in addressing the security council meeting, which was called by the Organisation of African Unity at its recent summit in Senegal. It is the first security council meeting dealing solely with South Africa since 1988.

Lawyers fear for life of Malawi dissident

FROM JUDITH MATLOFF IN JOHANNESBURG

MALAWIAN lawyers and pro-democracy activists said yesterday that they feared for the safety of Chakufwa Chihana, a Malawi dissident who disappeared after reporting to town.

In a statement issued in Zambia, the dissidents' Interim Committee for a Democratic Alliance said: "Given the history of police killings in Malawi, we are deeply concerned for the safety of



Chihana: police claim to have no information

Chakufwa Chihana and believe his life is in danger." Mr Chihana was first arrested in April on his return from Zambia. He had just been elected head of the committee of Malawi exiles against the one-man rule of President Banda.

Freed last weekend, Mr Chihana had gone with his wife to a police station in Lilongwe, the capital, on Tuesday to report as required by his bail conditions. The police told



Flying visit: Chris Patten, governor of Hong Kong, touring the colony's new airport site yesterday

Hong Kong airport agreement is delayed

FROM AFP
IN HONG KONG

THERE is not likely to be any progress in the new round of Anglo-Chinese talks on Hong Kong's new airport before it begins in Hong Kong this week.

A Chinese source said a breakthrough was unlikely because China would insist that Britain should propose a

new cost-effective way of paying for the scheme that would not be a burden on the future special administrative region of Hong Kong when it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997.

However, the source added:

"Peking will approve some proposals on which consensus has been reached with London to prevent the airport project from being delayed."

London has warned China that any delay in approving the airport funding plan could increase the overall cost, which has already jumped to \$21.2 billion (£11 billion), an increase of 14 per cent in real terms on last year's estimate.

The main obstacle has been Peking's concern that Hong Kong's commitment to private lenders, who will provide \$2.7

billion in callable equity, could become a debt to the future special administrative region.

London and Peking eventually will resolve their differences over the project on the basis of a memorandum signed by the two governments last year, the source said, but not during the talks.

Business Times, page 19

Mediation offered in islands dispute

FROM ABBY TAN IN MANILA

The Spratly Islands, a group of small islands, some little more than rocks, are the focus of increasing competition between China and her neighbours.

The possibility that there is oil beneath them is now generating such tension that the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is to try to resolve who owns the islands.

Raul Manglapus, the Philippines foreign secretary, and Blast Ople, the incoming senate foreign relations committee chairman, said security concerns in the region must be addressed and that the ASEAN forum was the best available. Observers see the Spratly as the region's next flashpoint.

The ASEAN foreign ministers will meet in Manila next Tuesday and Wednesday. Their talks will be followed by two days of dialogue with the group's trading partners, America, the European Community, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea, China, Russia, Vietnam and Laos, have been invited for the first time.

The meeting brings together the foreign ministers of five claimants to the Spratly Islands, the Philippines, China, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei. Taiwan, which



claims was "muscle flexing" to discover who might challenge for possession after Washington closes its bases in the Philippines at the end of the year.

It is in this context of having to chart a new direction in the vacuum created by the American withdrawal that security issues are on the ASEAN agenda for the first time in 25 years.

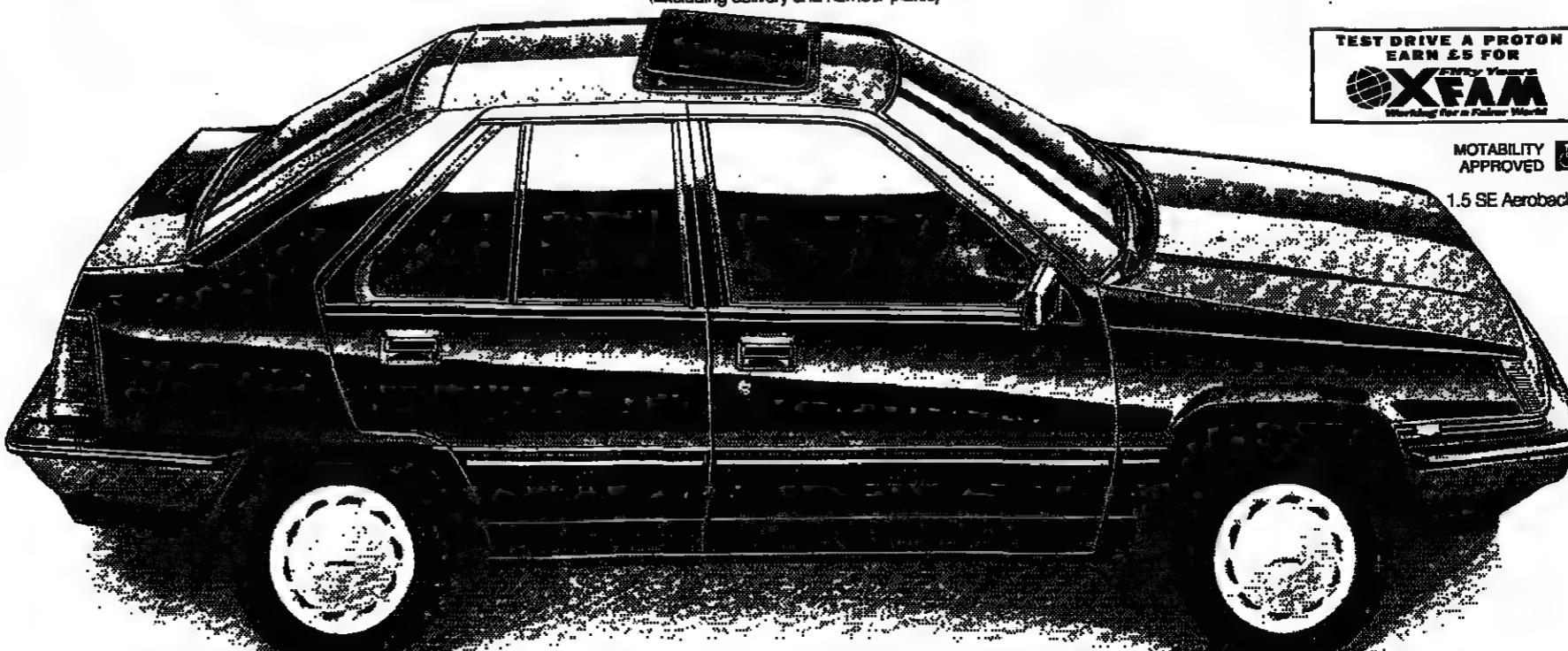
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Clinton is poised for triumphant party nomination

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN NEW YORK

BILL Clinton's long and traumatic march towards the Democratic presidential candidacy was set to end triumphantly in Madison Square Garden last night with his formal nomination by Mario Cuomo, the New York governor, and the traditional roll call of states.

After a six-month primary ordeal that saw him vilified in the media, pilloried by rivals and written off by colleagues, the Arkansas governor finally emerged victorious and at the head of the most united Democratic party since the 1976 convention that set Jimmy Carter on the road to the White House.

On Tuesday night, the convention overwhelmingly approved a campaign manifesto moulded by Mr Clinton and designed to move the party decisively back towards the political mainstream, especially on economic issues.

Mr Carter himself, once reviled but now revered by a party that has lost five of the past six presidential elections, endorsed Mr Clinton enthusiastically in a convention address that also damned President Bush. The former president told reporters he believed the party had come full circle after 16 years of being divided and in hock to its liberal wing.

In a powerful and emotional speech, Jesse Jackson, liberal champion and scourge of past nominees, was reduced to an occasional coded dig at Mr Clinton. Mr Jackson had been the one real remaining threat to what *The New York Times* referred to yesterday as a "convention of almost unnatural harmony".

But nobody here forgets how Michael Dukakis left the Democrats' 1988 convention with a 17-point lead over Mr Bush, and Mr Clinton himself said: "The election looks good today, but it is not going to be easy." The Republicans would soon begin an all-out attack on him, he added. "They run down much harder than they run up."

Mr Clinton was due to meet Nelson Mandela yesterday. The African National Congress leader was in New York for a United Nations meeting, and the encounter would help to boost the nominee's weak credentials in the areas of foreign policy.

Later, Jerry Brown, the former governor of California who has refused to endorse Mr Clinton, was expected to nominate himself as a means of addressing the convention, but his posturing this week has been little more than a side-



show. Mr Jackson's speech, which Mr Clinton watched from his hotel room, was an oratorical tour de force. However, the organisers of a convention designed to make the party look moderate timed it to coincide with a televised all-star baseball game, and while the delegates cheered his fiery rhetoric, they were lukewarm about most of his left-wing policy prescriptions.

After an entrance delayed for dramatic effect, the black civil rights leader immediately set minds at rest by hailing "President Bill Clinton", but thereafter his praise for the nominee was faint. He admonished him: "You have survived a tough spring that will make you stronger for the fall. With your strength, you must heal and make us better." The civil rights leader has in the past accused Mr Clinton of snubbing blacks to court white voters.

He called Mr Clinton's \$200 billion (£104 billion) plan for rebuilding America a "substantial step" in the right

direction. In a dig at Mr Clinton's recent condemnation of a rap singer's incitement of racial violence, he called rap and other black art a means of mending black people's broken lives. Speaking barely an hour after the adoption of the manifesto, he also said that politicians should adopt policies not because they were popular or would win votes but because they were right. "History will remember us not for our positioning, but for our principles," he said.

It was a night of unusual emotion. Mr Carter and Mr Jackson were preceded to the rostrum by two AIDS victims, the first ever to address an American political convention. The first was a homosexual aide to Mr Clinton, the second a woman, Elizabeth Glaser, wife of Paul Michael Glaser, the actor, who contracted the disease from a blood transfusion and passed it on to her late daughter through her breast milk and to her son in the womb.

Mrs Glaser's story reduced the convention to silence for the first time this week and many delegates to tears. "I am here because my son and I may not survive four more years of leaders who say they can but do nothing," she said.

Two Chinese students, survivors of the Tiananmen Square killings, also addressed the convention, the highlight of which will be Mr Clinton's acceptance speech tonight.

King of compromise, page 14



Party pitch: Representative Pat Schroeder throws a baseball during the Democrats' New York convention. She was drawing the crowd's attention to a game competing for television viewers

Jackson derides Quayle's family values

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

JESSE Jackson wins the prize for the Democratic convention's tallest or, perhaps, shortest story.

To illustrate how "haves" help the "have-nots" in his Tuesday night speech he recalled a visit to a North Carolina university. There, he claimed in all seriousness, he saw a 6ft 8in giant walking hand-in-hand on the campus with a 3ft female dwarf. With the help of a bench they embraced, then parted.

"What gives?" the astonished civil rights leader asked the university principal. He replied that the couple were twins. Numerous colleges had offered the giant basketball scholarships. He had chosen this one because it alone had agreed to give his sister a scholarship, too.

Mr Jackson also gets the prize for the week's most

extreme analogy. His purpose was to deride Dan Quayle's cynical exploitation of family values. Jesus was not only born to a homeless couple, Mr Jackson declared, but had a single mother. "When Mary said Joseph was not the father, she was abused and questioned... It was Herod, the Quayle of his day, who put no value on the family."

Poor Mr Quayle. His recent addition of a final "e" to the word "potato" has made him the butt of a thousand jokes this week. One popular lapel badge has the vice-president's face obliterated by a red line and the word "No!"

Again Mr Jackson stole the show, capitalising on Al Gore's passionate environmentalism. "In past years Republicans would always

talk about a stature gap. This time around they have a vice-president who cannot spell 'potato', while ours can spell 'chlorofluorocarbon'."

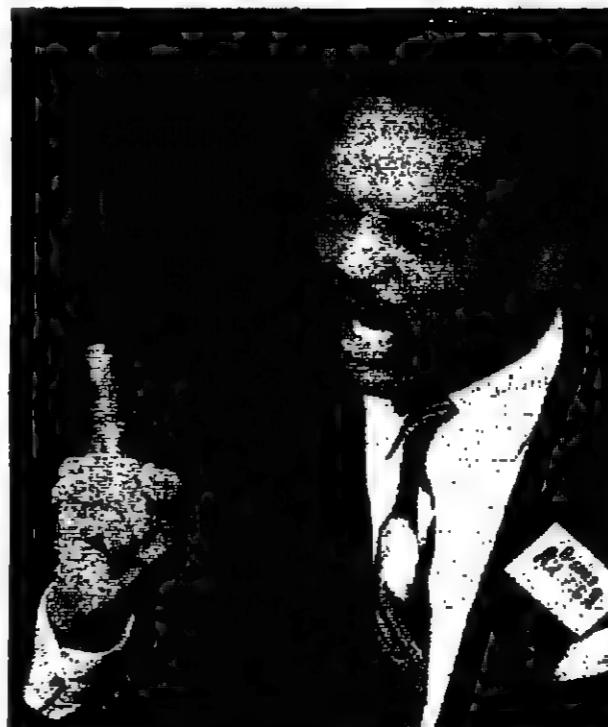
The irony of the convention is that the more the Democrats try to tailor the event for television, trying to turn it into a four-night free commercial, the less the networks show of it. Admittedly CNN has a team of 373 deployed in Madison Square Garden, but the three main networks have cut coverage to a minimum.

And who can blame them? Between two and five million more households watched *The Revenge of the Nerds* and a sitcom rerun than the convention on Monday night. The convention to date has produced so little real news that the media has begun chasing itself. One of the biggest excitement came when John Sununu, President Bush's unloved former chief of staff and

now a political chat-show host, used his media credentials to stride onto the convention floor. As the delegates called, a score or more television crews mobbed Mr Sununu, who beamed.

There was another momentous event on Tuesday. Bill Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, 12, was wheeled into the Inter-continental hotel with her leg bandaged. She was mobbed by television crews. Unfortunately it transpired that she was suffering from nothing worse than leg cramps from climbing the Statue of Liberty's 168 steps.

The physical state of the Clinton family could be a story, though. That morning Mr Clinton jogged in Central Park. It took him 25 minutes to do 1.75 miles, which is barely walking speed. "The governor's jogging motto is start slow and taper off," an aide said.



Pointing the way: Jesse Jackson addressing Democrats yesterday

PEOPLE

Fatigue forces Previn to quit the podium

The conductor Andre Previn, 63, has cancelled four appearances at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago because of fatigue, organisers said. A festival statement provided no other details about his condition. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, who has been chief conductor of the BBC and Vienna symphony orchestras and the Moscow Chamber Music Theatre, will extend his residency to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on July 31 and August 1. Yakov Kreizberg will then take over.

The Argentine soccer star Diego Maradona, below, told a judge in Buenos Aires that

he is to return to professional football. The player has had to make regular appearances before the court as part of a drug rehabilitation programme. His name was being linked with the French club Marseille yesterday.

Kripalini Baligadoo, 18, the daughter of the Mauritian high commissioner in Australia, Sri Krishna Baligadoo, died after falling down a cliff near Canberra, police said.

Tourist bus bombed at Luxor

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN CAIRO

FEAR that Egypt's thriving tourist industry has become a new target for Islamic extremists intensified yesterday when a suspected Muslim militant threw a petrol bomb at a tourist bus in the southern resort of Luxor.

The incident was the first in kind and followed last month's bomb attack close to Luxor's Pharaonic temple at Karnak when two devices exploded during the sound and light show about life in ancient Thebes, a leading tourist attraction.

No injuries resulted from either attack. A government spokesman said that the bomb broke the window of the bus but did not explode. Police arrested three people.

Egypt is facing its worst upsurge of Islamic violence since the assassination of President Sadat in 1981. Parliament is now debating the introduction of draconian penalties to counter the Islamic violence, which has claimed more than 35 lives since February.

Much of the bloodshed is due to feuds between Muslims and the Christian minority. The fundamentalists' aim is to overthrow the moderate government of President Mubarak and replace it with an Iranian-style Islamic republic.

Tourism, which has revived dramatically since the Gulf war, is one of the main sources of much-needed foreign currency for Egypt's ailing economy. Even before yesterday's bus attack, some tourists in Britain and elsewhere in Europe had cancelled holidays after reading reports of the Karnak bombing.

The former television evangelist Jim Bakker, 52, serving a sentence in Minnesota for fraud and conspiracy, says the media should do more stories on inmates and programmes to humanise the prison system. "These are just people and there are a lot of good people here," the Rochester Post-Bulletin quoted him as saying.

The singers Bobby Brown and Whitney Houston will marry at Houston's New Jersey mansion on July 18, a spokesman for the couple said.

The former television evangelist Jim Bakker, 52, serving a sentence in Minnesota for fraud and conspiracy, says the media should do more stories on inmates and programmes to humanise the prison system. "These are just people and there are a lot of good people here," the Rochester Post-Bulletin quoted him as saying.

Opposition claims overspending

Kuwait faces asset sell-off

Economists believe the oil-rich emirate could be plunged into debt within a few years. Christopher Walker writes



to bail out private banks by assuring their bad debts to Kuwaitis, many of whom are wealthy members of the ruling family who could pay themselves. Many debts date from the 1982 collapse of the unofficial secondary stock market known as Souk al-Manakh.

In the past few months, the government is reported to have authorised arms purchases and oil industry repairs of up to \$20 billion. A scheme has been passed by the national council to pay each family \$17,000 as compensation for the Iraqi invasion, totalling a further \$1.8 billion.

With the population nearly halved by the exodus caused by the war, the government is proposing to buy hundreds of empty apartments from Kuwaiti landlords, adding further to its obligations.

One Western expert said: "They are heading for problems they have not known since the oil started to flow. They will be under great pressure in the next two years."

The opposition is capitalising on the government's discomfort to back its claim that most ministers appointed since the dissolution of parliament in 1986 are incompetent. "Who paid all those billions? Who authorised all this?" demanded *Al Qazas* in a front-page editorial.

The financial troubles coincide with terrorist violence that diplomats believe is attributable to Islamic fundamentalists or to an Iraqi fifth column. The theory favoured by most Kuwaitis

Rabin takes charge of troops laying siege to Palestinians

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM

YITZHAK Rabin, Israel's new leader, faced his first big challenge as prime minister and defence minister yesterday when hundreds of troops besieged up to 3,000 Palestinian students in the West Bank. Israeli military sources said that the former general had taken charge of the operation at An-Najah University in the Palestinian city of Nablus, where Israeli security forces sealed off the campus in a search for suspected gunmen.

Contrary to his fearsome reputation when he last served as defence minister in the opening months of the intifada, Mr Rabin appeared to be treating the potentially explosive situation with some sensitivity. His caution was attributed partly to the arrival in Jerusalem next Sunday of James Baker, the US Secretary of State, who plans to launch a new peace drive for the region which could be derailed by any serious outbreaks of violence.

General Danny Rothschild, the head of the Israeli military government in the occupied territories, said: "We are making a very, very clear distinction between our wish to continue the peace talks as soon as possible and, on the other hand, not to tolerate any act of violence by any side."

Students said they feared leaving the campus in case the Israelis began mass arrests. Faculty members claimed that the Israelis had refused to allow food into the university and that six female students had been taken to hospital yesterday, suffering from stress and dehydration. Journalists were barred by military order from the area.

The incident began on

Democrats lionise their last president

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

THE white-haired former president began: "My name is Jimmy Carter," but the humility rang false.

He had received a standing ovation when he appeared at the podium, and immediately received another. The Democratic party was out to lionise its last occupant of the Oval Office, a man who left power the butt of national derision but whose stock has risen ever since.

Mr Carter has dedicated his post-presidential life to good

works, but it appeared on Tuesday night that he had been saving his passion for the big occasion. In a packed convention hall, he attacked George Bush with a ferocity rarely displayed by a former president towards a successor.

Under Mr Bush, and before him Ronald Reagan, America had come to be seen as "more war-like than peace-loving", said Mr Carter, whose Carter Centre in Atlanta dedicates itself to conflict resolution.

America had "celebrated a great victory over tiny Grenada", financed the Contra war in Nicaragua, and killed hundreds of its friends in Panama. Following the Gulf war, President Saddam Hussein still ruled in Iraq, Kuwait was no closer to democracy, and refugees endured terrible hardship.

At the Earth summit in Rio, America "stood out as the primary obstacle to a better world". It was the "major obstacle" to a nuclear test ban.

In his work with Atlanta's poor he had learned how slum-dwellers resorted to boiling sewer water, how the ambition of young males was to own a semi-automatic, and how at schools the pregnancy rate was highest in the lowest grades.

For Bill Clinton, Mr Carter had only praise. He was a friend, a fine governor and a man of honesty and integrity who had endured and survived false and misleading attacks on his character. "He is the only candidate who can unite our government, heal our nation's wounds, face facts with courage and marshal the American people to face a difficult future with hope and confidence," he said.

• Washington: Ross Perot would pull American forces out of Europe and focus his foreign policy on the Pacific and Asia, if elected to the White House, according to Paul Nitze, a former senior arms negotiator, who has dropped out of a panel advising him.



The conductor Andre Previn, 63, has cancelled four appearances at the Ravinia Festival in Chicago because of fatigue, organisers said. A festival statement provided no other details about his condition. Gennadi Rozhdestvensky, who has been chief conductor of the BBC and Vienna symphony orchestras and the Moscow Chamber Music Theatre, will extend his residency to lead the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on July 31 and August 1. Yakov Kreizberg will then take over.

Kripalini Baligadoo, 18, the daughter of the Mauritian high commissioner in Australia, Sri Krishna Baligadoo, died after falling down a cliff near Canberra, police said.

July 16 1992

Intellectuals plead with Mitterrand to recognise Vichy crimes



Pétain: still has many sympathisers

A GROUP of more than 200 intellectuals and leaders in the arts voiced outrage yesterday after President Mitterrand rejected their call that he should use today's anniversary of the biggest wartime round-up of Paris Jews to recognise officially the genocidal crimes committed by the Vichy government.

"We knew the state was dumb; now we discover it is deaf," said the *Vel d'Hiv* committee, a body that appealed last month to M. Mitterrand to do more than simply lay a wreath when he attends today's ceremony to honour the 13,000 victims of the round-up of the Vélodrome d'Hiver 50 years ago. Their petition, signed by thousands of supporters, called on M. Mitterrand to undertake a solemn act of recognition similar to that of Willy Brandt, the former German chancellor, when he knelt at Auschwitz. M. Mitterrand, who was

decorated by the Vichy state before becoming a Resistance fighter, dismissed the notion of such a gesture in a television appearance on *Bastille Day* which was widely interpreted yesterday as further evidence that, after 11 years in office, the 75-year-old president has lost touch with the mood of his fellow citizens.

"The president of the republic gives the impression of not living in the same world as his contemporaries," *Le Monde* said in a caustic review of an appearance in which M. Mitterrand also insisted that France's social troubles, such as the lorry drivers' strike, were mainly the product of prosperity and good government. M. Mitterrand's favourable rating sank by four points in the month to 39 per cent, according to a Louis Harris poll yesterday.

Taking a more outspoken line than M. Mitterrand, Jacques Chirac, the Paris mayor and leader of the neo-Gaullist RPR party, spoke last night of France's "duty" to remind itself of the indebted stain inflicted on its history by those who collaborated in the mass extermination of Jews. "France, the country of light, of human rights, of the French Revolution... handed them over to the Nazis just when her holy mission was to protect them," he said. "There is an impious necessity to bear witness, especially among the young," he added. France had now decided to look the past in the face. So

much horrifying evidence of the suffering of French Jews has appeared recently in books, films, television and the press that public opinion, particularly that of the majority born since the war, is said to favour an act of official contrition for the Vichy crimes. Support sharpened in April when a Paris court dropped charges against Paul Touvier, the only Vichy official who has come close to trial for crimes against humanity. Two others have since been charged.

M. Mitterrand based his refusal on a constitutional distinction. Since the crimes of Henri Philippe Pétain's regime were carried out by the collaborationist Vichy state and not the French re-

public, the republic had nothing to answer for, he said.

That logic cheered supporters of the National Front party and the strong body of sympathisers with Pétain's régime, but brought dismay yesterday from those who believed the time had come for France to confront officially the long-denied truth that French officials carried out or abetted the transportation of 76,000 Jews to German death camps. Three per cent

of the public could put an end to the official silence which has lasted 50 years since one of the most sinister pages in the history of France?

The committee, which includes Régis Debray, Michel Piccoli, Pierre Bourlez, Jacques Derrida, Jean Lacouture, Maxime Le Forestier, Guy Bedos and Roland Castro, asked M. Mitterrand to reconsider his decision before attending today's ceremony at the site of the now demolished Vélodrome d'Hiver on the left bank.

As M. Mitterrand was assailed by criticism, the Socialist party that he founded and took to power yesterday shed Jean-Pierre Chevènement, its leading left-wing dissident, from its ruling body in preparation for the referendum on Maastricht to be held in September and general elections next March.

M. Chevènement, who resigned as defence minister

last year because he objected to the Gulf engagement, had been expected to leave the executive bureau of the party since he adopted a position fiercely opposed to the Maastricht treaty, calling it a capitalist charter and a recipe for recession.

The leader of the Socialists' left wing and an influential figure in the early Mitterrand years, M. Chevènement has been at ever greater odds with the leadership as the party abandoned its old collectivist doctrines and moved into the centre of the political spectrum. Last weekend, embroiled in a new bout of financial scandal, it rallied behind Michel Rocard, a centrist and old opponent of M. Mitterrand. M. Chevènement said that he would be free to express himself on Europe as a citizen rather than as a Socialist official, although he remains a member of the party.

Croatians die as howitzer shells smash into stadium

FROM DESNA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND IAN MURRAY IN BONN

IN a dramatic counterpoint to the London peace talks on Bosnia at least eight Croatian soldiers were killed when howitzer shells smashed into a stadium in the town of Slavonski Brod yesterday.

A police officer in the town said the shells were fired from neighbouring Bosnia across the Sava river and had clearly been aimed at the stadium. "The Serbs knew they were there," the officer said.

A doctor at the Slavonski Brod hospital said 35 people were seriously wounded in the bombardment. Nine had severe head injuries and were in a critical condition. Mean-

Court will give abortion pill ruling

Washington: An American woman who is seven weeks pregnant filed an emergency plea with the Supreme Court to force the government to return the French abortion pills it seized from her.

Lawyers for Leona Benten, from California, asked Justice Clarence Thomas to overrule an appeal court's decision and let her have the controversial abortion pill, RU-486, which is banned in the United States. Judge Thomas, the newest and one of the most conservative members of the court, could rule at any time or he could refer the matter to the full court.

Ms Benten's lawyers urged the Supreme Court to act quickly. "Ms Benten is perilously close to the outer limit of the medically appropriate timeframe for taking RU-486," her lawyer said.

Abortion has become an emotive issue in the election campaign, with President Bush opposing abortion and Bill Clinton, the Democrat, supporting a woman's right to choose. (Reuters)

Truckers gain

Paris: France will introduce legislation this year to improve lorry drivers' working conditions and punish violations of the labour code by road haulage employers, Jean-Louis Bianco, the transport minister said. (Reuters)

Plane crashes

Sana: All 58 people on board a Yemeni military aircraft were killed when it crashed in the desert near Aden. Sixteen military policemen and members of the navy, six crew members and 30 civilians died. (Reuters)

Jet enquiry

Vienna: Thai investigators have confirmed that the crash of a Lauda Air passenger jet over Thailand last year was caused by the accidental engagement of reverse thrust, the Austrian transport ministry said here. (Reuters)

Dolphin toll

Paris: Hundreds of dolphins are being slaughtered in the Mediterranean because South Korean fishing boats are trapping them in 70-mile long drift nets, according to an oceanographic centre in Antibes. (Reuters)



Warring sides: Haris Silajdzic, Bosnia's Muslim foreign minister, left, and Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, held separate meetings at Christie's in London yesterday with Lord Carrington. The European Community's peace negotiator was trying to revive the talks



Brussels backs off on rebate

FROM GEORGE BURCK
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission agreed last night to avoid giving any recommendation to European Community governments about changing the rebate that Britain receives on its payments to the EC's \$4 billion a year budget.

The commissioners decided to confine their report,

commissioned by national governments, to a technical description of the rebate's complex workings and a short list of options for simplifying and adjusting the formula.

The discount is worth about £2 billion a year. Germany has been pressing for the rebate to be reduced when the next five-year EC budget is settled, but Britain insists that it should be maintained under the new budget.

The final text of the report will not be agreed until next week. Although some Commission officials suggested a lower rebate so that Britain might be forced to concede on other disputed parts of the budget, caution has won.

Art of diplomacy, page 1
Diary, page 14

Travelling cockpit class in Russia

Robert Seely reports from Moscow on how to obtain a seat on a fully booked flight — as long as cash changes hands between pilot and passenger

agreed a price equivalent to £20.

During the 30-minute wait for take-off, I chatted to the captain. Many of Aeroflot's pilots still speak about the former Soviet Union with fondness. "Look at the violence in Moldavia or in the Caucasus, look how people live in Russia and Ukraine. We used to have a union, now we are fighting each other," said the captain, a Ukrainian raised in Kazakhstan. He asked, for obvious reasons not to be identified — accepting "gifts" is technically a sackable offence.

Flying "cockpit class" also brings you something else rarely encountered on internal flights in the Commonwealth of Independent States: food.

It may not be much by Western standards — boiled chicken, biscuits, a choice of bread (black or white) and tea — but it comes with something prized as a luxury item in the hard times people here endure: butter. Our crew

counted themselves lucky. Aeroflot's in-flight service had prepared them six slices.

The best established air route for striking a deal when Aeroflot has exhausted the ticket supply is between Moscow and Tbilisi. Two other cities, Yerevan and Baku, are also fertile ground for last-minute arrangements. The Caucasian peoples, with their relative wealth, can network and sophisticated black marketeers will still afford the increased prices Aeroflot now charges.

By comparison the average Slav can rarely afford to pay up to half his monthly salary for a one-way ticket.

Consequently, for all routes to the Caucasus, the traditional method of bribes and back-handers, *na yego* in Russian ("on the left"), is alive and well. However, many of the ground staff, keen to augment their salaries, double-book seats. The effect is not to oil the wheels of capitalism here but to add to the chaos.

On a flight to Baku a

month ago, one unpleasant Mafioso-type, dressed in track-suit, moccasins and stubble, argued furiously with the Aeroflot crew who wanted to throw him off the plane because his ticket was out of date. He had, he said, already paid two bribes of 500 roubles to get on the flight. Two burly Moscow policemen boarded but thought better of arresting him and risking an ugly incident with a plane-load of hostile Azerbaijanis, even after the man had started to thump a stewardess.

The plane left an hour later with the villain of the piece firmly ensconced in the rear loo and refusing to budge.

The Yerevan to Moscow route must take pride of place in the chaotic stakes. Since Azerbaijan imposed oil embargos, flights to and from the Armenian capital has become spasmodic and permanently overcrowded. The loo are regularly occupied as seating and standing spaces.

On one recent flight, passengers complained of a constant thumping in the fuselage. The captain walked down the aisle, kicked aside the carpet and opened a locker beneath him — whereupon two Armenian stowaways emerged.

Germany to sell off railways

FROM IAN MURRAY
IN BONN

GERMANY'S debt-burdened railways are to be privatised over the next decade, the cabinet agreed yesterday. The intention is to finance a restructuring of the system with the help of private investment and motorway tolls on lorries.

Günther Krause, the transport minister, said he hoped the necessary legislation could be passed by the middle of next year leading to a merger between the East and West German systems in 1994. To encourage private investors the government means to take over the railways' debts of DM55 million (£19.3 million).

The government has also agreed on a DM493 billion-transport plan for the next 20 years, which for the first time involves spending more money on the railway than on roads. The plan includes spending DM108 billion on 1,988 miles of high-speed track and DM99 billion on 1,491 miles of motorway.

Privatisation is necessary for the restructuring to begin because under the German constitution, railway workers are civil servants who cannot be made redundant. Since the West German company wants to shed 30,000 jobs and the bureaucratic former East German railway system needs to get rid of some 86,000 employees, the constitution will have to be amended before anything can happen.

The government has convinced the opposition Social Democrats and the railway union that the plan for forcing traffic off the roads will, in the end, create many more jobs on the railways.

Assuming that the proposals are passed by the Bundestag next summer as planned, the merger of the two systems will follow, leading to the creation of three private companies. One will be responsible for passenger transport, one for freight and the third for track maintenance.

Branson aims high, page 4
Leading article, page 15

Cossacks spur capitalist and communist passions

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW



WERE the Cossacks practitioners of an early and noble form of socialism, or pioneers of the free market? In Russia's mounting ideological struggle, the question is anything but academic.

It is a sign of these patriotic times that hardly anybody in Moscow questions the desirability of reviving the caste of fighting peasants who in the tsarist era used to defend the empire's wider reaches in return for generous grants of land. Everyone, in short, pays lip service to the idea of recreating the "Cossack way of life" in the plains of southern Russia where the warriors had their heartland.

But the Cossacks, who were split down the middle during the Russian civil war and later faced ruthless re-

pression from the victorious Bolsheviks, are again divided over what that way of life means. What is not in doubt is that every householder in a Cossack village was entitled to a share of whatever land had been allocated to the community as a whole. This share could be bequeathed to one's warrior son but not sold to outsiders.

As the "red" wing of the movement sees it, this made the Cossack community something not too different from that old Soviet institution, the collective farm. Their "white" counterparts retort by emphasising the degree of independence which each smallholder enjoyed, and they prefer to compare the Cossack village to a joint stock company.

"This law means that there will be no private sale and purchase of land in one of the richest parts of Rus-

Bernard Levin

All dogs are dangerous, and absurdly weak laws ensure they continue to bite people

Two years ago I had a correspondence with Mrs Veronica Lynch; her child had been torn to pieces — the cliché was for once the literal truth — by two rottweilers. Another child, a friend of Kellie Lynch, had tried heroically to drag the dogs off, but failed, and ran screaming for help, though Kellie was by then beyond help.

There was a lot of something-must-be-done, and even more of nothing-was; ever since, there has been a succession of similar stories, accompanied by horrific photographs. It is estimated that every year in this country more than 50,000 children are bitten by dogs; not all of the attacks lead to substantial injury, of course (though many children acquire a phobic horror of dogs), but a dossier that has recently been sent to me, including a sheaf of newspaper photographs of dreadful scars and deformities caused by dogs, makes clear that our absurdly weak legislation in this field has achieved nothing of significance, while a thousand attacks a week continue to be recorded.

Whenever a child is savaged (dogs bite adults too, you know), fingers are pointed at a particular breed, not necessarily the breed that caused the latest tragedy. It is agreed all round that rottweilers, say, or dobermanns, or pit-bulls, have no place in a society like ours, and the country must be rid of them, humanely of course. Nothing happens until the next dead child is recorded, and the same song is sung, with the same nothing for a refrain. This is England; when a dog mauls a child a petition is frequently circulated, its terms being a demand that the dog should not be put down, and — this is England, as I said — it is frequently reprieved. No doubt some of these lovey-dovey doggy-woggies are recidivists, or simply acquire a taste for young human flesh; either way, they may bite another child, and the only consequence if they do is that the petition to save the dog has very slightly fewer names on it.

But this is England, I insist, and there is another very English trait, very relevant to this subject: start a group, and of course give it an acronymical name. That is how Panda came into existence: its full name is Parents Against Needless Dog Attacks, and good luck to it and its members. Panda has the greatest contempt for our dog laws (come to think of it, so have the dogs), and the organisation's aim is to see enacted some real legislation: the ideal law, in Panda's eyes, would include a country-wide dog register, the compulsory muzzling, when out of doors, of breeds designated aggressive (mind you, the scar on my own arm, acquired at the age of seven, got there from an innocent-looking spaniel), compulsory third-party insurance on dogs and their damage, an age limit no lower than 16 years of age for any person to be in charge of an aggressive-designated animal, instruction in dog awareness in schools, and tight legal controls on dog breeding.

Some of these solutions are impracticable, and some instruction in the schools might well breed an unnecessary fear in many children. But I can see no objection to the compulsory muzzling, not only of the designated dogs, but all dogs capable of doing harm to human beings. We have all smiled in Venice on seeing a chihuahua trotting along with a minuscule muzzle on its minuscule snout, but we give thanks rather than smile when an aleatian goes by wearing a stout leather muzzle, tightly fixed.

Of all the aspects of this country which foreigners, particularly European for-



One man's pet: a caged rottweiler shows its teeth

eigners, find incomprehensible, is our attitude to dogs. The Italians are the most bewildered; to a man, and even more to a woman, they are convinced that the English, especially the upper classes, prefer dogs to children, a supposition which has an appalling ring of truth in it. (Well, they don't send their dogs away from the age of nine, for a start.)

Much more powerful in the anthropomorphic tendency: the English talk to their dogs, not just as though the dogs can understand, but as though the dogs are replying. The foreigners, this time the French, believe that the English keep dogs in order that the dogs should fawn on them, so as to make the human beings (men, mostly) feel important and powerful. It is difficult to deny with any real conviction that there is such a tendency, no doubt subconscious but none the less real. Making a pet an equal is a silly thing to do, and suggests very powerfully that the owner has not fully grown up. That would not matter in itself, but what the half-adult forgets at the peril of others is that a cat, a goldfish, a budgerigar, a white mouse or a teddy bear may designate the owner as childish, but nobody gets hurt. When the pet-equal is a dog, children can easily get their faces chewed off. And the adult-adults are a greater danger: Panda should add to its legislative claims a fine of £1,000 for anyone saying of a dog, "But he wouldn't hurt a fly".

The Dangerous Dogs Act is supposed to "ban" pit-bulls, but under the same law the owners of rottweilers are exempt.

Dogs specifically bred to fight are not

approved (though how a growing dog

bred to fight can be distinguished from one that is just fighting it is difficult to see). The courts are empowered to order a muzzle on a dog that might be

dangerous, though that in practice means that it has already attacked someone.

The niceties of the legislation, and the

Kennel Club lobby, do not deal with

what is actually happening, which is

that (I have the official figures) one

hospital in Walsall alone recorded 610

attacks by dogs in the year ending

February 1992. The trouble starts with

the very title of the legislation: the

Dangerous Dogs Act, which promotes

the meaningless division between dogs

that are dangerous and those that are

not. The truth is that every dog which is

big enough and strong enough to hurt a

human being is a dangerous dog, and

should be recognised as such.

That does not mean that all dogs

should be put down. But it does mean

that the legislation is inadequate. And

some of the members of Panda could tell

the Kennel Club and the Home Office a

thing or two about how the group came

into being. It was when Veronica Lynch

met Terry Moseley. She was still

mourning her dead child; he has a

young son who was attacked by a 10-

stone mastiff that dragged him by the

arm, shaking him so violently that the

bones in his right arm snapped, and the

wound was so great that the bones could

be seen through the blood and tissue.

The dog, of course, had not been

designated as dangerous.

Give a dog a bad name... the old saw

comes to mind. But it is usually in the

form of exclamation. Perhaps we should

start using it literally.

Panda: Heath Court, 135-139 Wrythe

Lane, Carshalton, Surrey. Telephone:

0922 649170, 0482 25811, and 081-

644 4171.)

sales promotion: "How To Get The Most From Your Stir-Fry" for instance, or "The Joy of British Wines", so I eagerly pocketed it. As I was passing through the first aisle on my way to the soy sauce selection, I took a look at the card, thinking to gain a tip or two. "I WOULD LIKE TO HELPSOMEONE TO LIVE AFTER MY DEATH," it said. It was a donor card. This brought me down to earth with a jolt: intimations of mortality are rare along the pasta and sauces aisle of a supermarket, and are usually only awakened by the odd running trolley or collapsing pile of tortellini.

On the reverse side of the donor card there was a little "delete as appropriate" section. In supermarkets such sections tend to be reserved for competition forms in which one is required to list one's reasons (in order of importance) for wishing to visit the new Euro Disney. Occasionally there are tick-in-the-box lists saying "THIS product is suitable for home baking/microwaving/freezing" and so on. But the donor card was rather more graphic.

"I request that after my death..." it began. "A. my kidneys, heart, lungs, liver, pancreas be used for transplantation, or B. any part of my body be used for the treatment of others." Underneath it said "(Delete as appropriate)".

The additional pamphlet, which I had imagined would contain a list of the ten most popular cuts of New Zealand

A portrait of Bill Clinton, the Democrats' choice for the presidency

E. ADAMS STOMA



One more heave: Clinton's eloquence and potentially wide voter appeal is not in doubt, but he still has to prove he is more than a comfortable political voice

All hail, the king of compromise

Peter Stothard on the candidate who found a middle way

A end to "foolish traditions" and "expensive ceremonies" was a promise made to the Democratic convention by Franklin Roosevelt 60 years ago. As Bill Clinton's advisers struggle to keep disaster at bay this week, they can be forgiven for wondering when the whole unwieldy folly of Madison Square Garden itself will join the top hat and the Tammany Hall barons in the pages of party history.

Roosevelt's promise is high in

the

campaigners' minds because Governor Clinton has been sifting through the past in order to assemble the presidential nomination speech he delivered this morning. While his surrogates have been busy stalling dissent in the sweat-filled sports arena, Mr Clinton has been sitting back in an Intercontinental Hotel armchair surrounded by great acceptance texts of the 20th century, even the video versions.

How will he compare with FDR, JFK and LBJ? Almost

every

newspaper and television commentator told him he had to give the convention the "speech of his life". With 30 minutes of well-chosen words he was to cast off for ever his stained reputation from the primaries and come out as the man who will be president. Even after a week of such well-dragooned publicity for the party, that was a tall order.

One side put it this way as he picked his path among the mess of crushed stars and stripes: "What have we done in New York? We've introduced some young people to the tuba. We've reminded some old-timers that Aretha Franklin is still alive. Apart from that, we have mostly just avoided catastrophe. There has to be a better way."

When Roosevelt spoke of the foolishness of his party he was not talking about gay and lesbian groups, or the other circus acts that liked to dominate conventions even then. His

target was the tradition that the nominated presidential candidate should not even address the convention but remain away from the hurly-burly, in feigned ignorance of the offer, until he received the official white envelope a few weeks later.

In those days it was the party that delivered presidential victories. The candidate was considered a conduit through which the power of the big bosses would flow. But Roosevelt had a personal message for the party. He had to prove to sceptics that his physical inability would not stop him from waging a vigorous campaign. He had to take his own command of a party which he was about to lead in wholly new paths. He needed to speak.

The unprecedented address

— in which Roosevelt first used the phrase "New Deal", which he had borrowed from Mark Twain — was a more radical departure from the old ways than anything Bill Clinton has done this week. The stage set at Madison Square Garden has been wondered at for its curvaceous lines and giant divided video-screens. To have Aretha Franklin sing "The Star Spangled Banner" was judged a triumph. But, for all that effort, Mr Clinton's speechwriters have a tough task ahead.

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The unprecedented address

— in which Roosevelt first used the phrase "New Deal", which he had borrowed from Mark Twain — was a more radical departure from the old ways than anything Bill Clinton has done this week. The stage set at Madison Square Garden has been wondered at for its curvaceous lines and giant divided video-screens. To have Aretha Franklin sing "The Star Spangled Banner" was judged a triumph. But, for all that effort, Mr Clinton's speechwriters have a tough task ahead.

One side put it this way as he picked his path among the mess of crushed stars and stripes: "What have we done in New York? We've introduced some young people to the tuba. We've reminded some old-timers that Aretha Franklin is still alive. Apart from that, we have mostly just avoided catastrophe. There has to be a better way."

When Roosevelt spoke of the foolishness of his party he was not talking about gay and lesbian groups, or the other circus acts that liked to dominate conventions even then. His

target was the tradition that the nominated presidential candidate should not even address the convention but remain away from the hurly-burly, in feigned ignorance of the offer, until he received



OFF THE MARK

Today's meeting of the German Bundesbank could affect the British economy far more than any meeting of the British cabinet or the Bank of England or Conservative backbenchers. Such is the dubious pleasure of membership of Europe's exchange rate mechanism under its present management.

The heads of Germany's powerful central bank will gather to consider a rise in interest rates. They may settle for some "technical" measures to tighten policy, but the message will be the same. German interest rates will not come down this year and may fall only a little next year. For Britain this means that the recession will continue or at best turn into a recovery hardly worth the name.

The time has surely come for even the most ardent supporters of the ERM to acknowledge that German reunification has put an otherwise balanced system out of kilter. Reunification has peculiarly affected the German economy, most notably by increasing the money supply and inflation. Whether high interest rates constitute the right medicine for Germany is a subject of intense dispute within that country. What must be beyond dispute is that policies to ease the integration of former East Germany into the West are not necessarily those best suited to aid the recovery of employment, investment and economic activity in the rest of Europe, and certainly not in Britain.

These are the evils of rigid currency markets exposed. Nobody can seriously claim that the British economy is so bloated, so undisciplined, so inflation-prone as to require further doses of monetary contraction. Both the prime minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer are hamstrung, forced to issue ever more frantic statements to shore up the pound, like Labour ministers in the 1960s. Yet what can they do? So much political capital has been invested in ERM membership that Britain cannot realistically leave it, or even behave fast and loose within it. The ghosts of Montagu Norman and Stafford Cripps stalk Downing Street. Any weakening of sterling would damage the credibility of economic policy and of the British government at large.

Not is it realistic to suggest that the mark leaves the ERM, even temporarily. It is the

rock to which European monetary policy is now fastened. What might be proposed is that the mark be realigned, appreciating against the other currencies. The ERM was never designed to be a system of fixed exchange rates. Since it came into force in 1979, it has seen many realignments, especially in the early years. There has been no effective realignment since 1987 because Europe's economies were ostensibly converging in the late 1980s. This convergence has come to a halt with the onset of world recession coupled with the timing of German unification.

While Germany has experienced an unsustainable boom, Britain is suffering the longest recession since the war. Currency realignment would not guarantee that British interest rates fall below Germany's, any more than lower interest rates would guarantee recovery — though they would be a lifesaver to many companies. But a revaluation would improve Britain's terms of trade with Germany and itself tighten German monetary policy, thereby reducing the need for higher German interest rates.

Countries that would benefit most from revaluation are most hostile to it. The Germans are not opposed in principle, if only because Chancellor Kohl is tired of being blamed for the British recession and the French economic malaise. The fiercest opponent is France, whose aim has long been to match the performance of Germany. Britain is publicly opposed to a devaluation of the pound but would have much to gain from that version of devaluation that would be implied by a revaluation of the mark.

Devaluation of one national currency is difficult to sell. Devaluation of all, which is what German revaluation would amount to, can be presented not as a failure of economic policy by Germany's partners but as a response to a unique phenomenon. Germany's problems are not those of the rest of Europe. Other European countries should not be expected to suffer painful cures for illnesses they do not share. The price of currencies must remain fluid between regions, whether inside something called an exchange rate mechanism or outside it. Lateral thinking and lateral action is now required.

NO EXPENSE SPARED

Members of Parliament always get themselves in an embarrassing tangle when giving them money. They will find it hard to explain why early yesterday morning they defied ministerial appeals for restraint and approved a 38 per cent increase in their cost allowances. As George Walden, a former minister, told the Commons, "Whatever the rights and wrongs of this issue, it will be seen out there by the public, where they are going to have no inflation-plus increases but inflation-minus rises, that we are behaving like a 1970s trade union and awarding ourselves increases for reasons they will never understand."

To be fair, MPs were not paying themselves more — their pay is raised annually in line with civil service pay — but gently feathering their nests. They were implementing the recommendations of the Top Salaries Review Body, which had proposed increases in allowances of between 29 and 46 per cent after a lengthy review. The government wanted to scale down these increases at the same time as limiting increases in the pay of senior civil servants, judges and senior members of the armed forces to 4 per cent. But the staff and resources available to British MPs are not generous, certainly not if compared with the American Congress and members of the European Parliament, though the latter are perhaps not the model to be admired and copied.

The workload of MPs has risen over the past 20 years, both through select committees and in the volume of constituency business. MPs are viewed ever more as local om-

budsman in dealing with central and local government officials. The total allowance of nearly £40,000 which the Commons approved was £6,770 more than the government's proposal, but does not look excessive in view of the cost of employing staff in central London, properly equipping an office and maintaining services to constituents.

No ideal way exists to fix either pay or allowances when the final decision lies with MPs themselves. The present system of a review body may be the best available solution, with government expressing its view and MPs responding on the floor of the House. But MPs can hardly be surprised at the hostile reception their decision has met. The vote looks peculiarly selfish, insensitive and hypocritical when MPs are themselves supporting draconian economic policies that make many of their constituents redundant, while expecting all organisations to slash their overheads. In what world are these MPs now living? Do they not know the meaning of recession?

More serious is the bizarre double standard by which these same MPs are operating. How strange that it is on this issue alone that MPs are prepared to stand up and be counted as free-thinking individualists, against the pleas of the ministers and the demands of the whips! Is this the one moral cause which justifies an MP in thinking and acting independently of party or interest? Is this the sole manifestation of the conscience vote? Tuesday night's result was not a creditable moment in the history of the House of Commons.

JEUNES SANS FRONTIERES

When July with its constant showers has pierced the drought of June, and end-of-year exams are over, then students long to go on pilgrimage, to see the world as cheaply as possible. Their basic equipment is a backpack, an ability to sleep anywhere and a constitution that can survive on irregular and disgusting food and drink. For the past 20 years their magic carpet has been an iron horse, InterRail, which has offered those who can prove they are under 26 an astonishingly cheap season ticket for unlimited travel around the railway networks of Europe.

InterRail does more for European sisterhood and subsidiarity than a goods train full of EC directives and all the summit meetings ever held. Accordingly, it has caused trouble. France, Italy, Spain and Portugal are irritated that their trains are overloaded with free-wheeling students during the peak holiday months, and are asking for more money and a system to ration their young visitors.

Those who climb on this summer's bandwagon are paying £180 for a month's travel wherever they want, along 165,000 miles of track across 24 countries from Limerick to Lisbon, and from Aberdeen to Ankara, usually by way of Basel. More than eight million inter-railers have tucked the InterRail ticket into their money-belts since the scheme started. Next summer it is proposed that they pay a supplement of £75 to visit the four disgruntled countries.

InterRail was never laudable. In the summer there are only two classes of travel on the European railways: first class and InterRail. The trains on the golden routes to Greece and Rome are packed corridor-thick with interlocked and sleeping students. The inter-railers see more of railway junctions and baguette-sellers than of Botticelli on their not-so-Grand Tour. Their grasp of European languages is tattered, though they

No common ground on the exchange-rate argument

From Mr Fraser Danbury

Sir, I am a trader and speculator in foreign exchange. Two factors above all influence which currencies I buy or sell. One is the interest-rate differential between the two countries involved, the other the relative strength of their economies.

Recently far too much attention has been focused on the former. The Chancellor seems to think that by keeping our interest rates at around the same level as those in Germany the pound will somehow levitate back towards its central rate of 2.95.

If the UK left the ERM and interest rates were cut, the pound would fall, but what would happen to UK inflation? How would money-supply targets be enforced?

When planning European monetary union the participants should have aligned all the other variables first, such as inflation, money supply and the PSBR [public-sector borrowing requirement], and fixed the exchange rate last.

Yours faithfully,
FRASER DANBURY,
8 The Lindsens, Langdon Hills,
Basildon, Essex.
July 13.

From Mr Craig Knox

Sir, The letter by Tim Congdon and others (July 14) seems designed to "bounce" the UK out of the exchange-rate mechanism of the European monetary system. The EMS is the only real hope for achieving permanently low inflation, an aim to which the authors surely subscribe.

They argue that "credibility" in the ERM is lacking. How can there be credibility in a stable price (and an exchange rate, after all, is only a price) when a vocal minority is constantly requesting a change in that price?

They say there is a premium on long-term bonds compared with index-linked gilt-edged stock. Actually, one is financial, the other a real asset. They are not comparable.

The historic real yield on ten-year government bonds is 5.13 per cent in the UK, in the US 3.9 per cent, in France approximately 5.5 per cent, in Germany 3.7 per cent.

Such yields tend to be higher in countries with a relatively poor long-term inflation record than in those with a relatively good record. Inter alia, inflation records are a function of long-term strength (or weakness) of the currency.

The pound is over-valued against the dollar, as Professor Congdon and his colleagues say, but then so are the

mark and the yen, so "devaluation talk" is not "inevitable" as they claim. At most we are seeing generalised dollar weakness, not a UK-specific phenomenon.

Finally, one despairs at the suggestion that a stable exchange rate be replaced by "a framework of domestic monetary stability". Successive UK governments have found it impossible to frame "a properly constructed regime of money-supply targets", let alone achieve those targets.

If the UK left the ERM and interest rates were cut, the pound would fall, but what would happen to UK inflation? How would money-supply targets be enforced?

Would not the first-round effects of government spending cuts and/or tax increases required to rein in the PSBR in order to achieve a "responsible monetary policy" overwhelm the second-round benefits of lower interest rates and currency?

That begs the question whether, over the long run, a lower exchange rate would result in interest rates being lower than they otherwise would have been.

Yours faithfully,
CRAIG KNOX
(Investment strategist),
13 Cromwell Tower,
Barbican, EC2.
July 14.

From Mr Colin Davey

Sir, Professor Tim Congdon and his friends seek to convince you that not only was their previous contention that a period of monetary stringency was needed correct, but that their current view that monetary stringency should now be abandoned is also valid. They go on to claim that the lack of "credibility" (in the ERM) is because "the pound is badly overvalued" and "... should never have been pegged to an unrealistic level..."

In 1969 the exchange rate was £1 to DM 12. Today it is less than DM 3. If that is an unrealistic level, how much further do we go? What is it that induces such pessimism in some people of high intellectual ability?

They say there is a premium on long-term bonds compared with index-linked gilt-edged stock. Actually, one is financial, the other a real asset. They are not comparable.

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economic activity since the second world war. The Chancellor is addressing the wrong problem at the wrong point in the economic cycle.

The problem lies in the mismanagement of the upswing, for example in the badly timed expansionary budgets of 1974 and 1988. The time to have joined the ERM was in 1985, not in 1990, in order to restrain the boom. The Chancellor would then have been in a position to restrain gentry in 1992-3, but to harness the next recovery with a timely interest rate and prudent fiscal management.

Yours faithfully,
S. K. HILL,
102 Jermyn Street, St James's, SW1.
July 13.

From Mr Patrick Dennis

Sir, Your optimism with regard to sterling (Business Comment, July 9) is based on big assumptions.

It is too early to suggest that the dollar is set to rise on purchasing-power parity and US recovery considerations because of the possibility of a further rate cut in the US and of a German rate hike.

Indeed it is likely that German interest rates will not be cut until December at the earliest despite the recent strength of the mark, given the current trends in money supply and underlying inflation. The Bundesbank has a history of responding slowly initially to price and monetary developments and only then cutting rates sharply.

With respect to the Maastricht treaty, a "yes" vote in the French referendum is by no means certain. Nor is ratification in London a foregone conclusion: political developments may reach a climax at the Conservative party conference in the autumn, especially if the economy shows few signs of picking up by then. Indeed the UK economy may yet find itself in another downturn.

The devaluation risk in the UK and elsewhere in Europe will not disappear easily, especially here, where the deteriorating public finances and widening trade deficit will increasingly be taken on board by the markets.

Yours sincerely,
PATRICK DENNIS
(Chief Economist),
Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd.
(London Branch),
Bracken House,
1 Finsbury Street, EC4.
July 9.

Business letters, page 23

Ways to remove obstacles for first-time house buyer

From Mr Peter Spencer

Sir, It is becoming increasingly clear that the recession will not end until the housing market recovers. The key lies in the hands of the first-time buyer, who has not been seen in this market since the heady days of August 1988. Fears of redundancy or capital loss have no doubt held some buyers back, but all the evidence suggests that home ownership is still surprisingly popular and that young people are keen to enter the market.

Difficult obstacles lie in their path. Lenders have tightened their criteria, so that first-timers have to find a much larger initial deposit, typically 10 per cent or more. Mortgage indemnity insurance is becoming prohibitively expensive.

The way to address this problem is not, as many have argued, through a continuation of the stamp-duty holiday or more drastic fiscal and monetary measures, but to relieve artificial credit constraints. For example, a system of government-guaranteed personal loans to first-time buyers, worth perhaps 5 per cent of the purchase price, would make it much easier to find the initial deposit and get the ball rolling.

Yours faithfully,
P. SPENCER (Chief Economist),
Kleinwort Benson
Securities Ltd.,
PO Box 560,
20 Fenchurch Street, EC3.
July 10.

From the Secretary-General, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

Sir, The government has resisted calls for an extension of the moratorium on stamp duty (report, July 8). But if cost is the problem, why has it failed to answer calls for reform of the antiquated and unfair way in which stamp duty is levied? Two simple changes are needed:

1. The stamp duty threshold should be raised from the current level of

£30,000 to the average house price, around £60,000 — a move that we estimate would cost around £300 million.

2. Duty should be levied only on that element of the purchase price above the threshold, not on the whole purchase price.

These measures would help all those who want to enter the market.

If the government is determined to maintain the tax take acquired over the years by stealth, then the honest approach would be to raise the level of duty at the upper end of the market.

The government knows that stamp duty is an anachronistic tax. That is why it decided several years ago to phase out the duty on share and other transactions. If stamp duty must be retained on house transactions then we are at least entitled to a proper response to calls for a more equitable and modern version of it.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL PATTISON,
Secretary-General,
The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors,
12 Great George Street,
Parliament Square, SW1.
July 9.

television's requirements (report, July 8) for "many, many, many, more women" in more serious positions, perhaps we at GMTV are already leading the way.

Is Howell, our director of programmes, was omitted from his short-list of three women who make funding or scheduling decisions, and as we build our staffing toward our launch on January 1, 1993, we find that men in our company are an increasingly endangered species.

At the last count our staff comprised 42 women and 21 men and in our programming department, we have 13 women in senior positions (producer/editor/representative and above) compared with only five men.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER STODDART,
Managing Director, GMTV,
Upper Ground, SE1.

From Mr Fred Emery

Sir, Many were the changes William Rees-Mogg wrought at *The Times*, but he would want to be the first to correct Valerie Grove's assertion that he introduced *The Times'* first women's page. It was Sir William Haley who not only reintroduced in the 1950s the pre-war women's features but launched it in 1966.

Yours faithfully,
FRED EMERY.
Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.
July 10.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Complexities of police deployment

From Inspector David Hobson

Sir, In your leading article, "Reforming Old Bill" (July 6), you say that it is not for the police alone to decide where policing value lies and they must defer to the wishes of the wider community. Perhaps I can shed some light as to where this statement, taken to its ultimate conclusion, would lead.

I am an inspector in charge of a sector. My area is large and accommodates a population of about 50,000 in varied communities. To police this area I am given an authorised establishment of 37 constables. The actual establishment is 34. For various reasons, six are long-term absent from operational duty. From the remaining 28, seven at any one time are on weekly rest day.

After subtracting court attendances, annual leave, training courses, sickness and other absences I am lucky to field five or six constables. Of course we have a 24-hour responsibility.

Part of my job is to maintain and improve channels of communication with the community. Between April 1 and June 30 my officers attended 16 meetings with parish councillors at which 25 matters of police interest were raised as follows: parking problems: 12; motor cycle nuisance: four; children/youth nuisance: three; crime: three; minor vandalism: one; other matters: two.

Judging by this particular yardstick my priority is clear: I should concentrate nearly 50 per cent of my resources on the illegal parking of vehicles. A simplistic formula, I admit, but no more so than your argument.

During the same period my officers dealt with nearly 2,000 calls for service from the public. Of these 670 were crimes, 44 per cent of which involved car crime and the rest covering almost the full gamut of criminal activity. They made 129 arrests as well as dealing with all the other



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

July 15: The Honourable Henry Camoys, Lord in Waiting, called upon The Yang Di-Pertuan Agong, King of Malaysia, at the Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane (London W1), and on behalf of The Queen welcomed Their Majesties on their arrival in this country.

The Princess Royal, Master, the Worshipful Company of Loriners, this morning attended a Court Meeting and Luncheon at Innholders' Hall, College Street, London EC4.

Her Royal Highness this evening attended the Royal Tournament at Earls Court, London SW5.

Mrs Richard Carew Pole was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 15: The Prince of Wales this morning received the Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind, MP (the Secretary of State for Defence) at Kensington Palace.

His Royal Highness subsequently visited the National Clinical Positron Emission Tomography Centre at St Thomas's Hospital, Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1.

Mrs Belinda Harley was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE

July 15: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon this afternoon took the salute at a performance of the Royal Tournament at Earls Court.

The Hon Mrs Whitehead was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE

ST JAMES'S PALACE

July 15: The Duke of Kent, Chairman of the United Kingdom Trustees, today joined The Duke of Edinburgh's Commonwealth Study Kent Tour and was received by Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton (Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Kent).

His Royal Highness later visited the Eurounnel Site, Folkestone before going on to visit the St John's Road site, HM Customs and Excise, Dover, Kent.

Captain the Honourable Tom Coke was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE

July 15: Princess Alexandra, Patron, this evening attended a Reception given by BEN (Motor and Allied Trades Benevolent Fund) at Forbes House, Halton Street, London SW1.

Mrs Peter Alia was in attendance.

The Queen gave an Afternoon Party in the garden of Buckingham Palace.

Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, The Prince and Princess of Wales, The Princess Royal and The Duchess of Gloucester were present.

Her Majesty's Body Guard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms and The Queen's Body Guard of the Yeomen of the Guard were on duty.

The Bands of The Blues and Royals and The Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment played selections of music during the afternoon.

Latest wills

Mr John Challice Hall, of St John's College, Cambridge, left estate valued at £337,842 net. Among bequests, he left £5,000 to Southwark United Reformed Church, Exeter, £1,000 to All Saints Parish Church, Barrow, Suffolk, and two thirds of the residue to St John's College, Cambridge, and a third to Emmanuel United Reformed Church, Cambridge.

Mr William Gerald Moyers, of London SW7, left estate valued at £2,009,309 net.

Mrs Elizabeth Harris, of Bechinton-on-Sea, East Sussex, left estate valued at £435,450 net. She left £24,000 and effects to personal legatees and £1,000 to Bechill hospital and the residue equally between Dr Barnardo's and the Bechill Caring Community.

Jean Elizabeth Chard, of Collingham, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,565,991 net. She left £24,850 and other bequests to personal legatees and the residue equally between the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and Sick, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, RNLI, RSPCA and Leukaemia Research Fund.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Mary Cecilia Gary, of London SW19, £799,879.

Mr Napoleon Jerry Segedas-Salski, of Cheifield, Kent, £542,680.

Barbara Mary Webster, of Hoylake, Merseyside, £724,688.

Mrs Mahashri Nancy Nasar, of St Anne's on Sea, Lancs, £864,698.

Mrs Goldie Gertrude Bear, of St John's Wood, London NW8, £1,116,623.

Mrs Eugenie Berger, of London SE3, £617,719.

Mrs Rosalind Winifred Bellamy, of Oxford, £154,738.

Mr John North Bingham, of Ravenshead, Nottinghamshire, £11,171,069.

Mr Timothy John Colman, of Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, £1,346,309.

Mrs Norah Frances Edwards, of Seer Green, Buckinghamshire, £620,043.

Mrs Irene Clarice Graves, of Hove, East Sussex, £646,152.

Mrs Kathleen Mary Howards, of Wiswell, Lancashire, £831,065.

Mr George Ernest McDonald, of Bath, Avon, £1504,143.

Mr Robert Morrisson, of Harefield, west London £532,715.

Mr Alfred Horatio Sheaf, of Wootton, Isle of Wight, £504,214.

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Mrs Elizabeth Harris, of Bechinton-on-Sea, East Sussex, left estate valued at £435,450 net. She left £24,000 and effects to personal legatees and £1,000 to Bechill hospital and the residue equally between Dr Barnardo's and the Bechill Caring Community.

Jean Elizabeth Chard, of Collingham, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, left estate valued at £1,565,991 net. She left £24,850 and other bequests to personal legatees and the residue equally between the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and Sick, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, RNLI, RSPCA and Leukaemia Research Fund.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

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OBITUARIES

TED FENTON

Ted Fenton, pre-war player and, later, manager of West Ham United from 1950 to 1961, died in Leicester General Hospital on July 11 aged 77 from injuries received in a car crash. He was born in Forest Gate, London, on November 7, 1914.

IN HIS eleven years as manager of West Ham United from 1950 to 1961 Ted Fenton initiated a youth policy that produced Bobby Moore, Geoff Hurst and Martin Peters, key figures of the England side that won the World Cup at Wembley in 1966. He was only the third manager of a club that turned professional in 1900. Not only did Moore, England's captain in 1966, go on to become a soccer manager but so did Hurst, scorer of three goals against Germany in the World Cup Final, and Peters, who got the other goal, and many of Fenton's team of the 1950s: Malcolm Allison, Ken Brown, John Bond, John Lyall, Noel Cantwell and Malcolm Musgrave.

Fenton, the son of a policeman, was born four miles from the West Ham ground in 1914. He was the oldest of four boys in a family of eight. Fenton became the first boy to represent West Ham at football, cricket and athletics and had shown prowess in boxing. Fenton was chosen to play football for England schoolboys against Wales, but was ruled out because of an outbreak of smallpox in East London and being a contact. He was later selected against



Scotland at Ibrox Park at the age of 14 and, on taking his international cap back to Odessa Road School to show off, he impressed a girl pupil named Irene who later became his wife.

Fenton left school at 14 to work in an off-licence. Then he was invited to become West Ham's first ever ground staff boy in March 1931 at 30 shillings a day at 7.30 am in the billiard room, dusting, brushing and ironing the billiard table, then going on to the gymnasium to

sweep and dust and then to the bathroom and slipper baths and the dressing room to polish all the brass. At 9 am the assistant trainer, Frank Piercy, who always wore a bowler hat, would arrive to inspect the brass and the dusting. The rest of the day Fenton would help the groundsmen rolling, painting and sweeping and, if time allowed in the afternoons, he would train.

The year after Fenton arrived West Ham were relegated. He played 150 games for the club and lined up alongside some of his boyhood heroes, Syd Puddefoot, Jim Rutfield and Vic Watson. He was selected to go to South Africa in 1939 in what, because of the war, was an unofficial England football team for a 13-match tour that included four "test matches" against a representative South African team. During the war Fenton was a company sergeant major instructor in the Army and played football at Aldershot alongside the legendary Joe Mercer and Matt Busby. On demobilisation in 1946 he joined Colchester, then in the Southern League, as player-manager and secretary and the following season he led his team to the fifth round of the FA Cup before they lost to Blackpool, the eventual finalists against Manchester United.

Fenton's exploits, including training his team on oysters from the East Anglian beds, earned him notoriety. In 1948-49, when he was offered the position of manager at West Bromwich Albion, he consulted Charlie Paynter, the West Ham manager, and became his assistant instead. When Paynter, who completed 50 years at West Ham, retired, Fenton succeeded him. He left West Ham back to the invincibles for the first time in 26 years and proved an innovative manager who introduced weight-lifting exercises and steals as a players' staple pre-match diet rather than the then traditional fish, toast and tea.

Fenton later managed Southend United from 1961 to 1965 and his family still run a sports equipment business in Birkenhead. His auto-biography was entitled *At Home with the Hammers*.

He is survived by his widow, Irene, who is still in hospital with a broken neck and collar bone after a head-on collision with another car when they were travelling to a family reunion in the Midlands with their son Alan Brenda. Fenton's daughter, was also in the car with her husband, but escaped with cuts and bruises. Fenton died as a result of the injuries he incurred.

QIAN SANQIANG

Qian Sanqiang, a physicist who helped pioneer China's military and civilian nuclear programmes, has died in Peking aged 79.

BORN in 1913 in China's Zhejiang province, Qian Sanqiang graduated from Qinghua University in 1936 and later did research work in France at the Curie Laboratory.

In 1946 Qian's research, with his wife and fellow physicist, He Zehui, led to the discovery of a new type of fission for uranium atoms — a breakthrough which won him acclaim from the French Academy. He returned to China in 1948 just as Mao Tse-tung's communists were preparing their final push to

take power and joined the Communist Party in 1954.

Like many other intellectuals, Qian fell victim to the radical excesses of Mao's policies and disappeared from public life for five years.

As China emerged from its self-imposed isolation in the 1970s Qian reappeared in official posts and led a number of scientific delegations abroad. He was made a vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1978 and later was appointed president of Zhejiang University.

At the time of his death Qian was a member of the standing committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and vice-chairman of the science and technology committee.

£352,000 for Gainsborough

A DRAWING by Thomas Gainsborough has been sold for £352,000 at Christie's in London. The price was the second highest ever realised for a work by the English eighteenth century artist.

A Peasant Family going to Market had been owned by the artist's widow; his daughter, Margaret, and the art historian and populist, Lord Clark. The sale, to an anonymous buyer, will benefit the trustees of Lord Clark's settle trust.

Gainsborough frequently tackled the subject of idealised, idyllic country life during the 1770s and this example was one of its most elaborate manifestations in terms of composition.

The highest auction price for a Gainsborough was achieved last year for another watercolour, *A Lady Walking in a Garden*, at £616,000.

At the same sale a watercolour by J. M. W. Turner of *The Splügen Pass* fetched £242,000. The last time it had appeared at Christie's, in 1929, the same picture had fetched £200 guineas.

Press of a button shows City's lower profile

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

"Skyscrapers are out, groundscrapers in," says Ricky Burden as he operates London's most elaborate new toy, a street by street development model of the City. Press one of the 30 buttons on the control panel and new and proposed buildings light up like the old fashioned Paris Metro maps.

Mr Burden hopes it will soon be extended to cover the whole of central London. If the meteoric rise of the Architecture Foundation, of which he is director, is anything to go by he will soon have his wish.

"At present the average citizen has little opportunity to assess the impact of many proposals. Either you study a bundle of line drawings in the planning office or submit to the hard sell of the developers marketing suite." Now a scale model of any new building can be inserted into the master model and immediately be seen in context.

Of the 21 projects in the exhibition, *City Changes*, 13 have been completed and another eight have received planning permission or may do so soon. How many will be built is another question.

The strongest message to emerge is that British architects are pioneering

a new age of steel. Grime-stained exposed concrete is on the way out, and so says Mr Burden with relish, is granite-cladding.

For years reinforced concrete has been preferred to steel frame construction. Structural steel was considered a fire hazard and had to be encased in concrete to avoid fears of meltdown. The steel frames of Mies van der Rohe's glass skyscrapers had to be encased in concrete with a steel and glass grid overlaid to achieve the classic Miesian look.

Now advances in technique make it possible to use exposed steel and metal alloys in adventurous new ways. One pioneer here is Exchange House, built over the tracks of Liverpool Street Station by Skidmore Owings and Merrill. The leitmotif is a vast external train shed arch taking much of the weight of the building. Critics have carped that it is not a true parabolic arch. It does not follow a continuous curve like King's Cross station roof but consists of a series of straight sections bolted at angles and only looking like a curve at a distance. But this, says Mr Burden, is the most economical use of the steel skeleton

PETER GREENHAM



on Velasquez in the series "Painters on Painting".

Peter Greenham spent a fair proportion of his life in teaching art, in his earlier days at Magdalen College School and at the Byam Shaw School of Art and, from 1954, at the Royal Academy, where he succeeded Sir Henry Rushbury as keeper ten years later. This position not only involves the direction of the Academy Schools but, by tradition, includes surveillance of the institution's considerable collection of works of art. He was also for a time the art critic of *The Scotsman* and, in 1969, he wrote a book

on Velasquez in the series "Painters on Painting".

Throughout his life he had a keen interest in music and was an amateur pianist of no mean accomplishment. All these activities, however, were additional to his overriding profession as a painter, particularly of landscapes, seascapes and portraits.

There are therefore aspects of Greenham's temperament and output that remain one of Gainsborough and it might fairly be claimed that he had a Rembrandtesque limitation of palette and feeling for pigment, coupled with the technique of the Impres-

sionists — a potent combination arrived at through his own instinct and experience.

His portraits, such as "Father D'Arcy, S.J.", "Charlotte, Lady Bonham-Carter" and the numerous studies of his wife, Jane, and their family, are deeply felt and his landscapes and seascapes, nearly always of scenes he knew well and frequently in Oxfordshire, Norfolk and various parts of France, do not so much capture a particular moment as evoke dreams of past, present and future. He did not just record his impression of a subject but soaked up its essence.

Two of his paintings, namely "Jane" (1965) and "Life Class", were purchased for the nation under the terms of the Chantrey Bequest, and the Royal Academy possesses two portraits by him, "Josephine" and "Eric Hebborn" (his diploma work on election as an academician), together with a winter landscape and a little gem of a sea picture.

Peter Greenham married,

in 1964, a fellow artist, Jane Dowling (the New Grafton Gallery had a joint exhibition of their work recently). She and their son and daughter, survive him.

APPRECIATIONS

Dick Fifoot

THERE is one aspect of Dick Fifoot's career in librarianship (obituary, June 26) which merits some amplification.

Following the Board of Education's 1944 report on the supply, recruitment and training of teachers and youth leaders, there emerged during the late 1940s and early 1950s a national network of institutes of education. The report recommended a central role for the libraries of these institutes and one important outcome of this was close and extremely productive bibliographical cooperation between their librarians, in which Dick Fifoot, at Leeds, played a leading role.

As a member of the group of institute of education librarians during the period in question I recall, particularly, his major contributions to the rationalisation of responsibility for special collections and of periodicals holdings.

and his enthusiastic support for the implementation of speedy inter-lending arrangements between these specialised education libraries.

Above all, however, I would draw attention to creative and innovative work — largely by Dick Fifoot — which resulted in the co-operative indexing, by the institute libraries, of British periodical literature on education.

Before that time this literature was completely inaccessible in any organised form, but this new service, largely masterminded by Fifoot, went from strength to strength and eventually became the computer-based British Education Index. In bringing this about, as in all his other work with the institute librarians' group, Dick Fifoot, at Leeds, played a leading role.

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Professor Wilfred L. Saunders

Albert Pierpoint

MAY I be permitted to add to the obituary of Albert Pierpoint (July 13) aspects not covered. Albert was a good and cheerful, and faithful friend of my dear late parents, Annie and Charles Alchild, former licensees of the Fizroy Tavern. During the 1940s and 1950s, while on professional visits to London, he would often visit the tavern and, after him and his wife, Anne, had themselves become landlords of their pub "Help the Poor Struggler", often sought advice from the Alchilds.

Albert was a great supporter of the famed Pennies from Heaven fund, and often as "Uncle Albert" delighted the children who had no idea who this jolly man who loved to joke with them was at the annual Pennies from Heaven parties. In fact very few knew, until the headline in the *North London Press* on Friday January 20, 1950 was

"Hangman gave life to a party!" Having no children of his own, Albert loved to come up to the private sitting room of the Fizroy to sit me on his knee and his fine voice would sing nursery rhymes and songs.

The loss of another Fitzroviaan, Albert Pierpoint, will be sadly missed but never forgotten by many of that era.

Sally Fiber

other artifact proposed for some relatively remote situation unfamiliar to them, he could usefully describe from memory, in words as convincing as his drawings and paintings, the visual context in which the design was intended to be placed — information frequently omitted, either carelessly or carefully, from the drawings submitted.

Sir Anthony Cox

John Piper

MAY I add to your obituary of John Piper (June 30) a mention of his remarkable power of almost total visual recall. When he was a member of the Royal Fine Art Commission it was extraordinary how often, whilst commissioners were examining the design for a building or

Longleat and trees. With elegant simplicity Henry Bath cared for all three. The happiness and privacy of his family life at Job's Mill gave him refuge from the publicity he courted for the benefit of Longleat; until well into his 87th year he could be found, in all weathers, working happily among his trees and hoping, often in vain, that he might not be recognised.

Barbara Coombes

Lord Bath

A FEW years ago, Lord Bath (obituary, July 1) gave to an employee a retirement present inscribed "...for a lifetime of service to Longleat"; words which could apply equally to his own life. At his funeral last Saturday, one of his sons spoke of the three most important things in his father's life: his family,

The town would have been in grief had there been no red shirts to accompany the saint, and who knows what this latter might have devised in his wrath? For you must know that S. Michel of Calanissetta is a powerful saint, and that if Palermo was taken, it was owing to his co-operation. The saint of the cathedral, and after him the whole population affirm that every night during the fight the saint disappears in their great flight and disappears. At last, these annual excursions cease, and the day after the news arrived of the taking of Palermo, How could any one doubt about who took Palermo?

The procession was one of the most curious sights — a mixture of absurdity, idolatry, and religious devotion, such as I have rarely witnessed. The streets through which the procession had to pass were lined with masses of the devotees, who were anxiously expecting the great moment, and had almost forgotten red blouses and Garibaldi hats for a time. At last it approached. First the devotees of each religious community, bearing their icons, and followed by the body of acolytes, Capuchins, Franciscans, Dominicans, Carmelites, and others, whose name is legion, each preceded by a cross-bearer; last, the whole chapter of the cathedral with their dark red caps, and immediately behind, carried by 30 or 40 bearers, the wooden image of the saint himself, with a crimson cloak embroidered with gold, the figure of the saint, as well as of the evil one at his feet, exhibiting strong traces of renovation, particularly the fair looks of S. Michel and the grin of Satan.

After the saint came the National Guard and the volunteers from our Cavalieri. Every one threw himself down when the grotesque figure passed; while those around with each other who should have the privilege of carrying the conqueror of Palermo. No Buddhism could exhibit a truer species of idolatry.

In the afternoon a request came to the officers to assist at the entry of St. Michel, the patron saint, into the town. He had been good enough to defer his entry out of regard for the passage of the patriot soldiers, and now his agents asked for a guard of honour.

roofs terraces. Inside it promises a sensational atrium but the half drum shape leaves the lingering feeling that Rogers is profoundly uncomfortable beside the Art Deco monumental of Farrell's Alban Gate.

The model, says Mr Burden, shows that a third of the City has been entirely rebuilt since 1980 and a further third after the second world war. The losses have been tragic so it is good that the exhibition makes this strong showing of refurbishment projects including Bracken House (the old *Financial Times* building), Billingsgate fish market, the Royal Exchange, Britannia House and even the red-brick university of Warwick's Prudential building.

In the leaflet accompanying the exhibition, Mark Girouard sees the emerging City in these terms: "Instead of tower blocks rising out of windy piazzas, lower buildings achieve the same floor area by being built up to the street line, and are made accessible to the public by means of arcades and atriums."

City Changes is at the Royal Exchange, 10am-5.30pm until August 21.

and inside the building are two further arches supporting the load. Timed and reflecting glass has been overworked, so a medal is due to Sir Denys Lasdun, veteran architect of the National Theatre, for one of the most original all-glass exteriors in years at Milton Gate by the Barbican. The triple skin of this new office building has an astonishing aqueous look, a lighter or deeper marine blue according to the weather, given dramatic effect by the use of angles. Both Sir Norman Foster and Sir Richard Rogers are going in a different direction towards greater use of clear glass with structural elements painted white as in a smart Scandinavian cruise ship. At No 1 London Wall, Foster has designed an elegant minimalist new office in an unusual long bow for Stanhope and Kajima, the Japanese developers, rising from six storeys at one end to twelve at the other. At the top, all the operation plant, usually concealed behind blank walls, is exposed to view like large elements of abstract sculpture.

Next door, Rogers's Daiwa building is set back every two storeys towards the top in a series of dramatic

roofs. Inside it promises a sensational atrium but the half drum shape leaves the lingering feeling that Rogers is profoundly uncomfortable beside the Art Deco monumental of Farrell's Alban Gate.

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Insurer insists 'hot hatch' owners fit security device

By KEVIN EASON
MOTORING CORRESPONDENT

THE Norwich Union insurance company is refusing to offer theft cover on 45 makes of high-performance hatchback cars unless their owners spend up to £450 on engine immobilisers.

Britain's biggest motor insurer said yesterday that it would turn away new customers from August 1 if they own popular models, including Ford's Escort XR3i and Volkswagen's Golf GTI, which do not have the specified Vecta immobiliser.

The decision led to confusion last night as the Volkswagen Audi VAG Group, Europe's biggest motor manufacturer, stood by its advice to its 320 dealers not to fit the

Vecta system. It claims that complex immobilisers, which are wired into eight different areas of a car's electronic systems, including the engine management computer, could cause the engine to stall while the car is moving.

The Volkswagen warning has prompted Listonic Ltd, which makes the Vecta, to complain to the European Commission. Solicitors are also considering civil action against VAG and a complaint to the Office of Fair Trading. David Ely, Listonic's marketing manager, said: "The Vecta is the most advanced system on the market and has full approval, after months of testing, from agencies like the police."

The legal battle may go some way to solving the dispute over security devices. Motor manufacturers are still waiting for the International Standards Organisation to make recommendations on specifications for the equipment, which prevents thieves taking cars even if they break in and hot-wire the ignition.

Norwich Union was unmoved by criticism of the Vecta. The company said that the device was vital if the company was to cut losses on its motor business. The cost of car theft to the Norwich last year was £65 million, up from £50 million in 1990, with thieves targeting the so-called hot hatchbacks.

Derek Plummer, Norwich Union's marketing manager, said: "We were faced with a number of options, including imposing a huge premium for these cars or not offering theft cover at all. We have chosen to continue to offer cover to new customers who take this very important step to reduce the risk of car theft."

Besides the XR3i and Golf GTI, the "blacklist" includes the Fiat Uno Turbo, Ford Fiesta XR2i and three Sierra models, two Mercedes-Benz 190 models, four Renaults, nine Vauxhalls and the Peugeot 205 GTI. Existing Norwich customers who fit a Vecta system, which costs from £350 and £450 for specialist cars, will earn a £40 rebate on their premium.

Continued from page 1
ate and was wheeled back to his suite on the tenth floor. "The Holy Father tolerated the operation well," the joint medical bulletin said, adding that "the usual final analyses of the piece removed had been started."

The successful initial outcome of the operation caused relief in the Vatican, assuaging the alarm caused when the Pope announced abruptly on Sunday that he was about to enter hospital. The first sign that the surgery had gone well came when diplomatic accreditation to the Vatican began leaving an office used by the protocol department of the Holy See and an ambassador from Central America told reporters: "The Pope is going to make it."

More than 5,000 of Pope John Paul's fellow Poles attended a Mass for him in St Peter's yesterday. The Vatican said the Pope said Mass before the operation.

Professor Crucitti said the operation would not change the Pope's lifestyle after his convalescence and that he can resume his usual pattern of intense foreign travel.



Over and out: Jodi Fisher, Britain's European under-21 slalom champion, flips from the waves yesterday during a practice session at the Princes Club at Bedford, west London. He was preparing for the British national waterski championship to be held this weekend at the White Rose club in Yorkshire

Operation on Pope successful

Continued from page 1
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Peace in Bosnia falls to the lowest bidder

Continued from page 1
struction to be stopped, to have heavy weapons put under international control," he said.

The taxi driver who collected the foreign minister afterwards was unsure of who his passenger was. When told, he put his finger on the pulse, saying: "Christie's for peace talks? Unusual... but then they do seem to be auctioning Bosnia off."

Lord Carrington said after his talk with Mr Boban, the Croat leader, that the three sides had agreed to continue contacts through Senator Cutileiro. Mr Slajdžić would talk to Senator Cutileiro, who would convey his position to

the other two parties. Lord Carrington's capacity to pluck hope from the blackest of diplomatic holes remained alive last night, however. Mr Slajdžić's unwillingness to sit down with Mr Karadžić did not prevent negotiations, but "it makes it infinitely more cumbersome", he said.

□ Douglas Hurd yesterday began a four-day fact-finding mission to Yugoslavia and the capitals of all four breakaway republics. He was due to meet Roland Dumas, the French foreign minister, in Paris on his way to Ljubljana, the Slovenian capital.

Stadium shelled, page 13
Diary, page 14

Bundesbank holds the key to fate of pound

Continued from page 1

down, the Liberal Democrat leader, said Mr Major and Mr Lamont were right "when they say that unilateral devaluation at present would be unlikely to provide anything but the shortest of short-term assistance at a cost of powerful long-term damage".

Earlier he told reporters at a Westminster news conference: "I am prepared to support any action necessary to maintain Britain's position in the exchange-rate mechanism. If it involves raising interest rates we have to be prepared to do it."

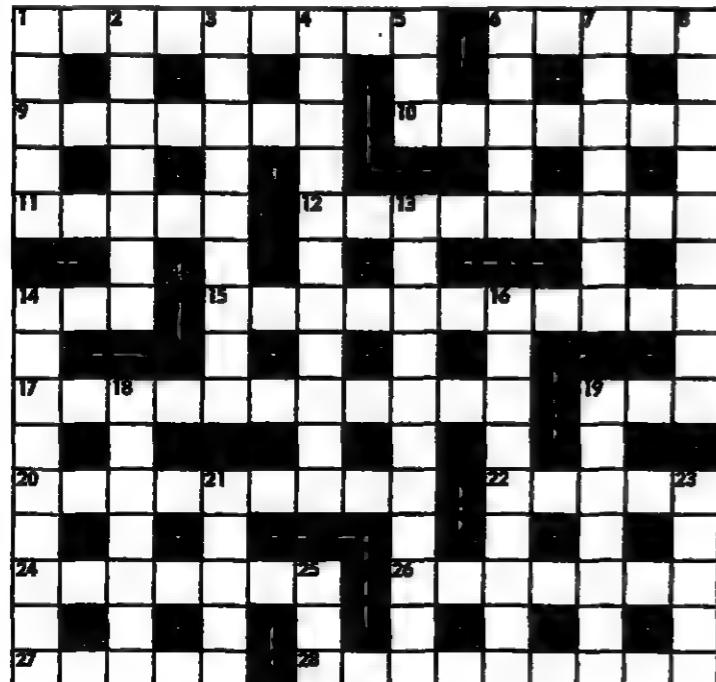
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Leading article and
Letters, page 15
Pound hunt, page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,972



ACROSS

- Where Cain went to sleep? (4,2,3).
- Rise of Conservative member (5).
- Question is answerable (7).
- I comply with new order from Greece (7).
- Cockney chap who sells willow (5).
- Colleague of journalists went wrong in Cheapside (9).
- About to fell a hidden tree (3).
- Edinburgh rock in Camelot (7,4).
- Very properly following a fellow (11).
- Hits back and attain equality (3).
- Sibyl was hit — copper gets involved (9).
- A sweet sent back, being cold (5).
- Ape — one finds it in China, say (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,971

BENEFACTRESS
A E I H E H P C
DIVERSION ERROR
GEE D O L E A
ENROBE TWO FACED
R R N I L
SIGNAL DENOUNCE
A N I D V C
RESIDENT BEATER
A L F R E
TRIANGLE PLIANT
T G U A B Y W R
LEHAR TERMINATE
E T S E A N R A
WEDDING GUEST

- We, at our allotment, survive (7).
- Visitor believed in free speech (5).
- Seen about in the distance, strips down (9).
- Look round a ship to find a rope (5).
- "Any old iron?" Raised one pound in police station (7).
- Defeat by cunning completed pass (9).
- Fit to obtain esoteric know-how, by the sound of it (3,1,3,2,2).
- Twain didn't use ordinary leading characters (3).
- Bank robber running across Scotland (5).
- Drive, executing simple U-turn (7).
- Put a boat in reverse to an isolated place (9).
- Trick made by fellow at bridge (6-5).
- High jump for children (9).
- M., for instance, identified part for Miss Pym as Terpsichore (9).
- I benefit, accepting one's love (7).
- Saw wanderer in the lead (7).
- Man with the knack to evoke compassion (5).
- Strong point (or strongpoint, to the English) (5).
- The Spanish start to market wood (5).

Concise crossword, page 19
Life & Times section

Today's pollen count forecast is
Moderate
SELDANE
A major advance in hayfever treatment.

Clue: Add two to initially backward superior product (3).

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Yesterdays figures

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BUSINESS TIMES

THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
27-32

Career service to get wider role

Shephard hints of an end to war with unions

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

GILLIAN Shephard, the employment secretary, has signalled an end to the government's 12-year war with the trade unions.

Although she intends to complete the passage into legislation of the measures contained in *People, Jobs and Opportunity*, the government's employment white paper, inherited from Michael Howard, her forerunner, Mrs Shephard has no plans to add to its provisions.

She said yesterday: "There was a war between the government and the trade unions. I am not talking about trade unions in any particularly hostile way because we are in a different decade. I do not see this bill as another war against trade unions."

Mrs Shephard suggested that the steep fall in industrial unrest was evidence of a sea change in industrial relations in Britain. In the year to April, the latest for which figures are available, fewer working days were lost to strikes than at any time since the 1920s.

The employment bill, which will resume its passage through Parliament in October, contains provisions that have been criticised by trade unions. It will end "check-off", the arrangement under which companies collect subscriptions from their workers on behalf of trade unions, and

will give workers the right to belong to any union they choose.

Unions fear this will lead to a steep fall in membership, and possibly to an increase in disputes about workplace representation. The bill also requires unions to give advance notice of strikes and gives individuals affected by unlawful wildcat action in public services a right to sue unions.

Mrs Shephard made it plain, however, that the measures that most interested her were the hitherto little discussed powers to extend the work of the careers service to provide more advice for adults as well as teenagers. Extension of the careers service fits neatly with her desire to improve the quality of government safety-net training schemes and help to the jobless. Mrs Shephard said:

"It is not satisfactory at the moment." Mrs Shephard said. "Young people make uninformed decisions with their parents. They might spend two years doing the wrong course. That does not increase the skill content of the economy. If they had better guidance, they might make better choices."

An increased role for the careers service will be among proposals to be considered by a working party established by the employment secretary to review the effectiveness of training provision. "That whole area needs to be looked at again," Mrs Shephard said.

She is already seeking to persuade Treasury ministers that the 82 Training and Enterprise Councils, which oversee local delivery of training programmes, need three-year funding in the manner applied to NHS trust hospitals.

She believes the Tec's ability to deliver training appropriate to the needs of local companies and individuals will be enhanced if they can plan further ahead.

Shephard: sea change

Diary, page 23

Pound hurt by growing fears of Bundesbank rate rise

By COLIN NARBROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

FEAR that the Bundesbank will today tighten monetary policy drove the mark up and pushed the pound and other currencies into retreat on a broad front.

The dollar fell to its lowest for 17 months against the mark, while the Bank of Italy was forced to intervene to stem the slide in the lira amid growing market conviction that the Bundesbank council will raise a key lending rate, a move likely to heighten tensions in the European exchange-rate mechanism. Expectations of a general realignment of the ERM hardened, despite assurances to the contrary from the British and other governments.

Sterling seen as one of the riskiest currencies in the exchange-rate mechanism fell to DM2.8425, little more than a pence above its effective floor, as the flight to the safety of the mark continues. By the official London close at 4pm, the pound had firmed a little, but finished at DM2.8453, nearly a half

pence below its closing rate on Tuesday. But it gained more than a cent against the falling dollar to end at \$1.9273, boosting its trade-weighted index 0.2 to 92.4.

News that the Bundesbank will hold a press conference today, plus remarks from Oskar Issing, a Bundesbank director, which suggested that the Bundesbank council will raise a key lending rate, a move likely to heighten tensions in the European exchange-rate mechanism. Expectations of a general realignment of the ERM hardened, despite assurances to the contrary from the British and other governments.

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5.5 per cent growth, analysts believe the Bundesbank is unlikely to alter the target range. Some believe the Bundesbank will avoid direct hikes in its discount and Lombard rates, but take other measures to reduce liquidity in the banking system.

**Bundesbank meets, page 1
Leading article, page 15**

Cherish for a fruitful year: John Rudgard celebrates HP Bulmer's 19% gain yesterday

Taunton Cider offer left flat

THE Taunton Cider offer has become the third share issue in a week, after those of Anglian Group and MFI, to be snubbed by the small investor, with only 30 per cent of shares on offer going to the man in the street. Taunton, maker of Dry Blackthorn cider and other drinks, offered 29.2 million shares to retail investors and placed firm a similar number with City institutions last week at 140p. Taunton found buyers for 13.2 million shares sold in the public offer, but 4.47 million of these went to sub-

underwriters, leaving just 8.78 million shares applied for by the retail investor. As a result, 15 per cent of the shares being floated, the placing included, went to the public.

John Rudgard, chief executive of HP Bulmer, yesterday drank to a 5.5p a share final dividend, which lifts the total in the year to April to 7.4p (6.87p). Profits rose 19 per cent to £17.1 million as cider sales rose.

Tempus, page 22

Key accounting practices may have to be changed

By GRAHAM SEARJANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

COMMON accounting practices, including those for leasing and acquisitions, will have to be changed if accounting principles proposed by the Accounting Standards Board come into effect.

The proposals are contained in two draft chapters for the board's planned statement of principles, defining the elements that should be recognised and included in profit and loss accounts and balance sheets. David Tweedie, the board's chairman, said they were the guts of the statement.

He said: "There would be some fundamental changes. There are conflicts between these principles and existing practice. They are more significant than people may immediately realise."

The definition of assets and liabilities, which would recognise rights to a contracted

stream of benefits if they can be measured reliably, implies that operating leases on items such as aircraft would have to be recognised as assets and liabilities in the same way as finance leases effectively covering almost all the life of the asset, further reducing scope to exclude obligations from a company's balance sheet.

The common practice of companies writing off heavy reorganisation costs on acquisitions would also have to end if the draft principles, which are up for discussion until the end of October, are endorsed.

The need for an asset to be measured at a monetary amount with sufficient reliability would also affect accounting for intangible assets such as brand names.

**Comment, page 23
Accountancy Times, page 26**

Lift-off granted for Air France cash

FROM TOM WALKER
IN BRUSSELS

THE European Commission yesterday said it considered a €128 million cash injection into Air France by Banque Nationale de Paris, the French state bank, as a "normal financial transaction".

However, the deal, which gives BNP an 8.8 per cent stake in the ailing carrier, was viewed with suspicion by Sir Leon Brittan, the competition commissioner, and will undoubtedly cause dismay at British Airways, which has protested to Brussels over its continued tendency to allow large amounts of taxpayers' cash to flow into the EC's state airlines.

Analysts suspect that the normally rigorous vetting standards applied to state aid by Sir Leon are not upheld in airline cases, which come within the portfolio of Karel Van Miert, the transport commissioner. They also point to the increasingly elaborate cross-subsidy

schemes operated by the French government. BNP last year took a stake in Usinor Saclor, the state-owned steelmaker. Last November, Sir Leon was narrowly defeated within the 17-member commission when he tried to block the French government's Fr2 billion injection into Air France. In both cases, Mr Van Miert has argued that a normal private investor would have acted in the same way as the government and BNP.

Analysts said this assumption was surprising, given that Air France made a loss of Fr685 million last year. One said: "Can you really imagine a private investor putting money into a company like that?"

To compound doubts, the commission issued a press release that began to sound little more than an advertising leaflet for Air France. It said: "In the long term, the perspectives for the group are good in a generally good civil aviation climate because it has solid competencies, a good brand image, a good level of

efficiency and substantial development prospects in the Charles de Gaulle airport."

For its Fr1.25 billion, BNP will receive bonds that can be converted into shares in Air France at any time over the next eight years. The bonds pay a fixed 6.5 per cent rate of interest. The commission said: "If Air France exploits its market potential, one can estimate that BNP will be well rewarded."

Brussels has yet to examine Air France's purchase of a Fr6 billion, 37.5 per cent stake in Sabena, the Belgian national carrier that is in an equally calamitous financial state.

Analysts are awaiting the outcome keenly as the enquiry will be made by Sir Leon, because the case falls under competition rules and not the state aid code. Airline sources in Brussels said Sneema, the French enginemaker, was also seeking private or state cash.

Comment, page 23

HK Bank high-flier to join Midland

By NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Hongkong and Shanghai Bank has appointed one of its highest-flying executives to help reinvigorate Midland Bank. Keith Whiston, executive director of Marine Midland in America, has been made deputy chief executive of Midland.

Midland has confirmed that Gene Lockhart, its head of British banking, and George Loudon, chief executive of Midland Montagu, the bank's two highest-paid directors, are leaving.

Last year, they earned a combined salary of almost £800,000 and are believed to have received severance pay of more than £1 million. Both their jobs are being axed in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's reorganisation.

The bank also confirmed that Brian Goldthorpe, its deputy chief executive, has been made the head of Hongkong Bank's credit risk department.

The promotion recognises Mr Goldthorpe's skills in handling bad debts. In 1983, he helped run Midland's rescue of Crocker National, its ill-fated American subsidiary.

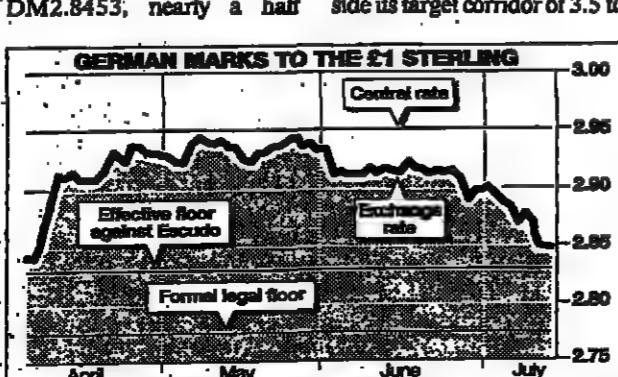
Mr Whiston, 49, will work under Brian Pearce, Midland's chief executive, and take on responsibility for the bank's European operations, including Trinkaus & Burkhardt in Germany and Midland SA in France. He is already being tipped as Midland's leader when Mr Pearce retires.

The appointment makes John Bond, Marine Midland's president, the favourite to become Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's group chief executive when the post is announced next January.

Other contenders still include Bernard Asher, the head of the group's investment banking division, and Paul Selway-Swift, the area manager of the Hong Kong operations.

Mr Whiston and Mr Bond have been responsible for turning round Marine Midland, which, until this year, has been a black spot in Hongkong Bank's figures.

In 1990, Marine suffered a loss of \$296 million because of heavy bad debts. In the first quarter of this year, it recovered to a \$2.6 million net profit and is expected to report a half-year profit of more than \$20 million next Monday.



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Comment, page 23



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True reflection sought at Mirror group

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

SIR ROBERT Clark, the new chairman of Mirror Group Newspapers, faces the toughest test of his long career when he confronts up to a thousand angry shareholders and pensioners at the annual meeting in London this morning.

The company is facing a heavy turnout at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster and has hired the Central Methodist Hall next door to accommodate any overflow.

Sir Robert will try to explain how he and his fellow directors allowed Robert Maxwell to steal £421 million from MGN, losses which have pushed the company close to administration.

The board's position is safe in one vital respect. It has the support of John Talbot, a partner at Arthur Andersen, administrator of the Maxwell private companies, who controls the voting of almost 55 per cent of the group's shares, even though those shares are now held as security by the banks. The board has also received a large number of proxies to the six motions that are voting ten to one in favour of the board.

Mr Talbot's votes mean the company's report will be passed and the position of its

directors is safe, for now. Mr Talbot is not expected at the meeting, but will use his proxy. The board, however, will face a rough ride before reaching the safe haven of a proxy vote.

Most of MGN's 3,500 shareholders and pensioners are angry. Shareholders feel they were misled into buying shares in the company's flotation last year. At the time, Robert Maxwell claimed that "even a one-eyed Albanian can see these shares will go to a premium". When trading resumes in MGN's shares on Friday, one-eyed Albanians will, like other investors, discover they have lost up to half their money.

The most vociferous questions will come from the Association of Mirror Pensioners, whose 12,000 members lost an estimated £300 million in Robert Maxwell's rampage. The association holds only 250 shares, since it advised its members not to invest in MGN's flotation in April last year.

MGN may try to block proxies from speaking at the meeting. This will silence Tony Boram, the chairman of the association, and Giles Orton, its solicitor, two of MGN's fiercest critics. If they

cannot speak, the job will pass to Ken Hudgell, the association's secretary and MGN's former company secretary. Mr Hudgell is a trustee of the reformed Mirror pension fund.

He will ask the directors, including Sir Robert, how much they did to avoid the shattering fraud. "I want an explanation about why the directors did so little to prevent it — why they did not call a meeting of the audit committee when they noticed that funds were missing," said Mr Boram.

"If they do not give me satisfactory replies, I am prepared to call for their resignation," he added.

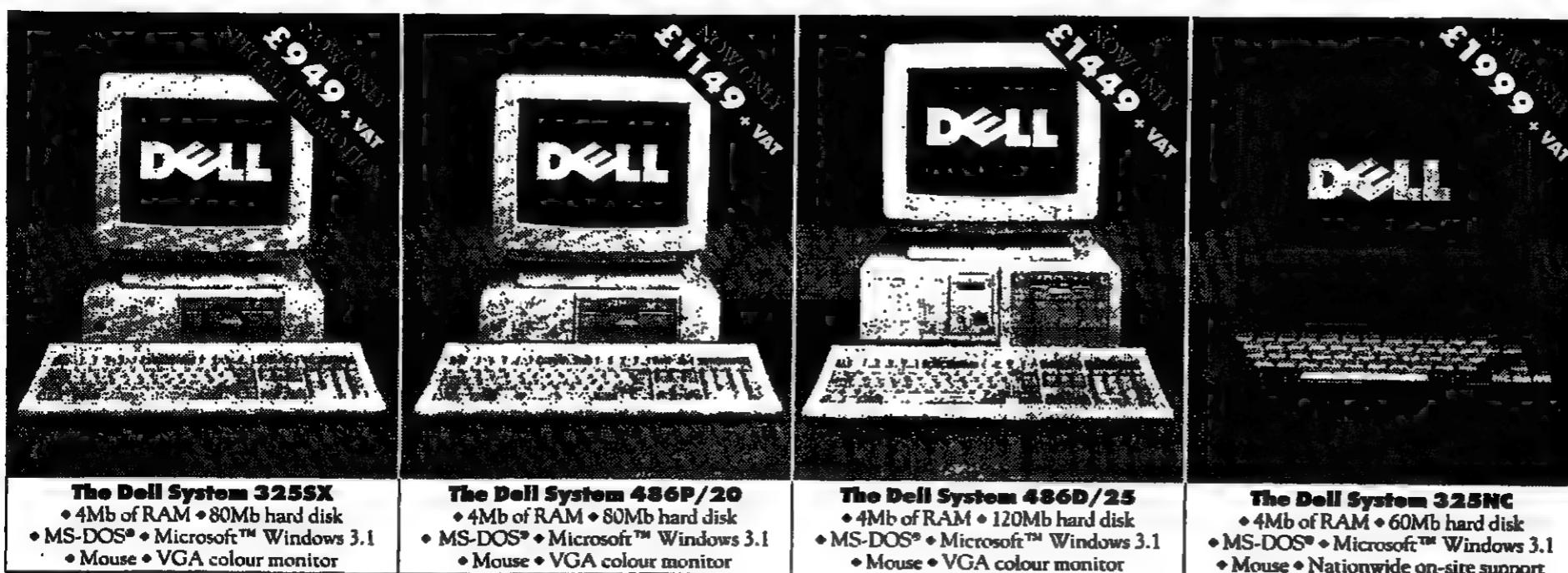
MGN's shares have been suspended at 125p since December and are expected to be relisted on Friday. The price is expected to plunge to 65p.

The association will also call for the quick sale of the controlling stake in MGN, which is controlled by the National Westminster, Midland, Goldsmith Sachs and Lloyds banks. "I want to make a case for the speedy sale of the company to get us out of the hands of the banks. Any delay is going to increase the anxiety among pensioners about their future," said Mr Boram.



Waiting for answers: pensioners will question directors about the Maxwell saga

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Restructuring fails at West Industries

WEST Industries, the engineering group, has been forced to abandon its attempt at a financial restructuring and has asked its bankers to appoint an administrative receiver. This comes 19 months after West took over Audit & General, an engineering, nursing home and property group. The deal valued A&G at under £2 million.

However, just three months after the takeover was completed Svenska Handelsbanken, the Swedish bank, appointed a receiver to A&G and its subsidiary companies after a £5.8 million overdraft was not cleared. Svenska's action, which came as West was endeavouring to put together a rescue rights issue, prompted a complaint to the Bank of England. The Swedish bank's actions, West alleged, were "inappropriate and precipitous". Shares in West were suspended a fortnight ago at 2p.

Cross-border deals rise

THE number of cross-border acquisitions by companies rose in the second quarter but is still well down on the levels of three years ago. Worldwide cross-border deals were valued at \$21.5 billion in the second quarter against \$14.3 billion in the first three months of the year, according to KPMG, the accountancy firm. Hongkong and Shanghai Bank's \$5 billion bid for Midland Bank and Nestle's \$2.8 billion bid for Perrier were highlights of the period. The average value of transactions in the first half of 1992 was \$17.9 billion against \$29.5 billion in 1990 and \$32.6 billion in 1989.

Williams expands

WILLIAMS Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, is acquiring the building components division of Charles Beynes, the specialist engineer, for £8.6 million in cash. The division comprises Ancon Stainless Steel Fixings, Ancon MBT (Couples), and Harris & Edgar. Beynes said fundamental changes in the construction industry meant that the company's existing exposure to the sector was not appropriate for its long-term profile. The disposal will lift shareholders' funds by about 35 per cent to £27 million and increase its net cash to about £1.2 million.

Beckenham in the red

BECKENHAM Group, the ductwork engineering company that counted Olympia & York as a big client, plunged into the red in the first half of the year and is attempting to raise £1.9 million through a three-for-four rights issue. The company fell from a pre-tax profit of £746,000 to a loss of £771,000 in the six months to end-April. Turnover declined to £15.3 million (£26.5 million). There is a loss per share of 1.4p (1.65p) profit and no dividend (0.5p). A provision of £164,000 was made against contracts with Olympia & York.

Leisure group slips

TOMORROWS Leisure, the hotel, golf and leisure company that owns the Pleasure Island theme complex in Liverpool, saw pre-tax profits slip to £731,000, compared with £860,000, in the year to end-March. However, earnings per share rose to 6.5p (4.7p) and turnover increased 68 per cent to £7.5 million (£4.4 million). There is a dividend of 1.375p (1.25p) a share. Net assets trebled from £10.6 million to £30.8 million after a revaluation of the Pleasure Island site that opened in May.

Clarke Hooper slides

CLARKE Hooper, the marketing services group that in January declared an interim dividend but announced in March that it had decided not to pay it, saw profits turn into losses in the year ended April. Alan Penson, chief executive, says the swing from a 1991 year-end pre-tax profit of £2.05 million into 1992 pre-tax losses of £3.45 million reflects a poor second half and the impact of the recession. The shares were traded at 6p yesterday.

Denmans moves ahead

DENMANS Electrical, the Bristol electrical goods wholesaler, lifted pre-tax profits to £523,000 (£574,000) in the six months to the end of March. Turnover increased to £18.9 million (£17.8 million). Earnings per share rose to 12.7p (8.8p). There is an interim dividend of 1.8p (1.65p). Arnold Denman, the chairman, said that the increases were due to strict control of costs and working capital rather than any large pickup in sales.

Cartel busters 'raid 11'

ANOTHER two chemical companies have confirmed they were among PVC producers raided last week by cartel investigators from the European Commission. Solvay, the Belgian group, said its offices had been searched by EC officials in relation to an alleged European PVC price-fixing cartel. Norway's Norsk Hydro also confirmed that its British unit was raided but denied any violations of anti-trust laws. Investigators are believed to have carried out raids on 11 plastics firms.

Wasserstein refuses to devalue Isosceles

BY OUR BANKING CORRESPONDENT

WASSERSTEIN Perella, the American corporate finance firm, has refused to write down the value of its \$350 million stake in Isosceles, the indebted supermarket group, although other shareholders have written off their investments completely.

Wasserstein said it had no plans to devalue the 40 per cent stake in the company. But bankers said the shares would be almost worthless after the latest refinancing. The firm said it does not review the value of any of its holdings for three years after the initial investment, but would consider its position with its auditors at the year-end.

In the past month, 31, the venture capital group, and Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, the American supermarket group, have written off their shareholdings in Isosceles, while Mercury Asset Management, the investment manager, has made a substantial provision.

Wasserstein invested \$1.50 million in Isosceles when it took over the Gateway supermarket chain in 1989, and a further \$200 million in the refinancing at the beginning of last year. The funds came from the firm's \$1.1 billion

buyout fund, which it manages for major American institutions. The Isosceles stake accounts for almost half the funds invested.

A partner at Wasserstein said there were special reasons why other shareholders had devalued their holdings, and said that the shares would regain their value when trading at Isosceles improved. He said Wasserstein's stake was more valuable than the others because it contained five highly-voting A shares, which gave the firm the right to veto any company motion.

Meanwhile, Isosceles is expected to pass a test of its banking covenants at the end of the week, thanks to the provisional agreement reached by its main banking committee. The company will be tested on the lower standards of interest cover and operating profits it has agreed with the banks. If it had been tested under existing covenants, it would have been declared in default.

Isosceles' 50 banks are expected to reach formal agreement on the latest refinancing by the end of the month. The agreement will allow the group to proceed with its plans to develop the upmarket Somerfield food chain.

Foreign investment in UK falls for first time in ten years

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FOREIGN investment in Britain dropped last year for the first time in almost a decade. Although Britain remained the preferred destination in Europe for American and Japanese firms to set up subsidiaries or expand, attracting investment is becoming more difficult, according to the Invest in Britain Bureau (IBB).

The bureau expects a tough battle for the investment funds of cash-strapped companies in the United States and Japan. American firms have drawn in their horns because of the recession, while Japanese companies have seen their access to cash reduced by the problems of the Japanese financial system. In addition, competition for investment

funds from other areas of the world, including eastern Europe and the Pacific rim, is increasing.

In an effort to compensate, the bureau, part of the trade department, will mount a marketing effort in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore in the hope of wooing firms from those countries to invest in the United Kingdom.

Malcolm Day, a director of IBB, said a drop in the number of foreign investment projects launched in Britain also reflected the UK's past success. Each of Japan's ten biggest electronic companies has already set up in Britain, and 96 of America's largest companies measured by the Fortune 100 index, is already established.

"We have already got the major companies," Mr Day said. From now on, the average size of companies investing, and the amount of money spent, was likely to diminish.

In the year to March, foreign companies undertook 332 investment projects in Britain; about half of them involving expansion of existing plants. The projects are calculated to have created 22,714 jobs, and safeguarded 28,643 more.

However, the total number of jobs created or safeguarded, at 51,357, was down 16 per cent on the previous year, while the number of projects fell by 18.

American companies were easily the biggest overseas investors in Britain during 1991. Their subsidiaries initiated 104 investment projects, creating 8,225 jobs.

German companies were the next largest inward investors for Lloyd's.

Their right to do so is being contested by Lloyd's in a High Court action before Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Popplewell. Anthony Colman, QC, presented the argument for six applicants connected with the Goods Walker Action Group, opposing Lloyd's motion to have leave for a judicial review set aside. Gordon Pollock, QC, presented the argument for Lloyd's.

Four syndicates formerly managed by Goods Walker, face losses of £1 billion for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 underwriting years. The 2,250 members of the Goods Walker Action Group have said they will pledge up to 2 per cent of their losses — or £20 million — towards the cost of legal action.

See page 11

Names await ruling

Lloyd's names will learn tomorrow whether they are free to press for a judicial review of the insurance market in the wake of a disastrous underwriting spell that has pushed many to the brink of bankruptcy.

Their right to do so is being contested by Lloyd's in a High Court action before Lord Justice Leggatt and Mr Justice Popplewell. Anthony Colman, QC, presented the argument for six applicants connected with the Goods Walker Action Group, opposing Lloyd's motion to have leave for a judicial review set aside. Gordon Pollock, QC, presented the argument for Lloyd's.

Four syndicates formerly managed by Goods Walker, face losses of £1 billion for the 1988, 1989 and 1990 underwriting years. The 2,250 members of the Goods Walker Action Group have said they will pledge up to 2 per cent of their losses — or £20 million — towards the cost of legal action.

See page 11

WMI profits ahead

Waste Management International, which made an international public offering of 20 per cent of its capital in April at \$85 a share, raising a net \$405 million, made several significant acquisitions in the half year ended June, and expects to complete more deals before the year end.

The group achieved a pre-tax profit of \$62.6 million for the six months, compared with \$41.5 million in the first half of last year. Profit in the second quarter of 1992 was \$35.3 million (£23.6 million). The shares rose 7p to 57p.

Parker fined

The European Commission has fined Britain's Parker Pen Holdings 700,000 ecus (£500,000) and Herlitz of Germany, 40,000 ecus for operating an agreement that restricted sales of Parker pens within the European Community. The commission found that Parker and Herlitz had concluded an accord in August 1986 on the distribution of Parker Pen products in Germany. Under the accord, exports that did not have Parker's consent were prohibited.

Wise up

Pre-tax profits at Leslie Wise, the textiles group, rose 11.7 per cent to £1.5 million in the six months to end-March, on turnover 25 per cent higher at £22.8 million. The interim dividend is held at 1.75p.

Oxford Forecasting sees signs of hope

By COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

WORLD economic conditions give continued cause for "gentle optimism", despite a marked deterioration in sentiment since the beginning of this year. Oxford Economic Forecasting says:

Its summer assessment of the leading industrial economies, out today, concludes that the bullish confidence at the start of the year, and the general despondency currently in fashion, are both misplaced. The OEF has trimmed its forecast for world growth this year from the 1.7 per cent predicted in the spring to 1.5 per cent.

But it underlines that recovery was always going to be tentative and that 1.5 per cent growth is almost twice the 1991 growth rate. While OEF notes that the pace of recovery may seem lacklustre, it points out that the 1991-2 slowdown represented the first time since the 1960s that the industrialised world as a whole

weathered a trough without experiencing contraction. Global expansion next year is forecast at 2.7 per cent. Evidence in support of OEF's mildly optimistic view includes the return to growth in America, for which it foresees 1.9 per cent growth in real terms this year and 3 per cent next.

It is also confident that the Japanese government can be relied on to take whatever measures are needed to avert recession in Japan. Japanese growth is forecast at 1.6 per cent this year and 3 per cent next. OEF also believes prospects for the developing and newly industrialised economies are the brightest for years.

The "big question", the report says, has been whether Germany would avoid recession this year. Year-on-year growth of 0.8 per cent in the first quarter, instead of the widely expected fall, suggests there will be no German recession, OEF concludes. It notes that the German wage round was less costly than expected, and the Bundesbank could be easing the monetary reins by the end of the year.

Even if money supply worries forced an interest rate hike before then, German growth is forecast at 1.2 per cent this year, picking up to 2.7 per cent in 1993.

But growth in the big three economies is not reflected in Britain. OEF expects the British economy to contract 0.4 per cent this year, its second consecutive year of shrinkage. Next year, it is expected to expand 2 per cent. The report says: "Despite an upsurge in business and consumer confidence following the general election in April, the long-awaited upturn in economic activity has yet to materialise."

OEF finds some tentative signs of recovery in the financial markets, as well as in manufacturing industry output in recent months. Weak consumer spending and the prospect of continued stagnation in housing are, however, seen as likely to mean little improvement. Consumer spending is expected to fall 0.4 per cent this year before rebounding to 2 per cent growth next year.



Back to work again: the Hanson directorship is Kenneth Baker's first appointment since he left the government

Electricity deal 'could save pits'

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

MUCH of Britain's coal industry could be saved following privatisation if the regional electricity companies agreed to underwrite future production by guaranteeing to take most of their requirements from coal-fired stations,

According to Malcolm Edwards, former commercial director of British Coal.

He also called for a two-tier pricing structure, with those consumers needing certainty of supply paying the top rate. Big industrial users would pay less but would not be guaranteed power at any given time. This would allow some unprofitable pits to be kept open, he told a conference on coal privatisation in London yesterday.

The two generators have offered an average 12 per cent cut over five years in the price the distributors pay for power. While the latter ponder this latest offer, the government is thought to want a larger reduction so it can take credit for a substantial cut in domestic bills in the years following the industry's privatisation.

□ The National Grid Company, owned by the 12 electricity distributors in England and Wales, has given a guard to plans from the Office of Electricity Regulation for a cut in real terms in transmission charges. The company said that Offer's terms suggest a rise in charges of three percentage points below inflation, repre-

sented a "tough objective".

His ideas are unlikely to find favour with the power industry, not least because they would imply higher prices if the industry was denied cheaper imported coal.

He said even with all the gas-fired plants now being built, a full commitment of the distributors' remaining franchise to British coal could lift that eventual figure by 10 million tonnes a year.

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It is the right to sell all the power it can produce as part of the privatisation arrangements for the rest of the electricity industry.

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Bulmers takes bigger bite of the cider apple

AS THE only quoted cider maker, if only for the next few days, HP Bulmer could not have picked a better moment to peel off its best result for years, a 19 per cent surge in pre-tax profits to £17.1 million, and will have rubbed salt into the wounds of the Taunton Cider team an hour or two before they pulled down the shutters on their offer for sale.

To liken the traditionalist Bulmer business to the racier, hedge-drinking image of Taunton's products is, however, to compare apples with pears. John Rudgard, Bulmer chief executive says, and he disputes his Somerset rival's claim that it has been primarily responsible for recent growth in the market. The evidence is there for all to see, he says. In the six months to June, the cider market grew 8 per cent, and Bulmer's cider sales 16 per cent. Scrumpy Jack is outselling Red Rock.

But this is largely to miss the point. The cider market is growing at the expense of beer; down 7 per cent last year on average. There is plenty of room for both.

Aside from the more proven

qualities of its Strongbow and Woodpecker brands, Bulmer claims an advantage in its diversification. The case remains shaky. Although Australian cider profits grew by 18 per cent, the San Miguel and Red Stripe distributorships could not buck the decline in beer sales, while Perrier, Orangeina and Kiri, the soft drink brands, failed to escape the 6 per cent slide in the marketplace.

Bulmer has invested £46 million over the past four years to underline its position as market leader, and a lot more on advertising. Gearing has edged up to 27.3 per cent, but interest cover is healthy enough at 5.6 times. The group should top £19 million this time, for earnings of more than 22p a share, which would value the shares at 13.6 times earnings at last night's 300p. No premium over Taunton, but then Bulmer offers no bid prospect.

Anglia Homes

THE worrying thing about Anglia Secure Homes, the builder of sheltered housing,



Debt vertigo: Peter Edmondson, the chairman of Anglia Secure Homes

is that it has not made a profit for three years. Each year it writes down the value of its unsold stock and land bank and each following year it reports yet another loss.

This cannot go on forever, as the virtual halving in an already devastated share price, to 6.5p, showed. The

£5.1 million pre-tax loss for the six months to end-March has reduced shareholders' funds to under £11 million.

True, net debt has fallen, but only from £34.3 million to £30.1 million. Gearing, therefore, is a vertiginous 278 per cent. Not surprisingly, the company is in regular contact

with its bankers and presumably with Commercial Union, its 12.2 per cent shareholder. Without a dramatic and immediate recovery in the residential housing market it is well nigh impossible to see how the company, chaired by Peter Edmondson, can get itself out of this mess. Passing

the interim dividend again looks the least of its problems.

Sales appear to have collapsed. In the six months, the company sold 72 units compared to 139 sold in the already depressed market of a year ago. Turnover of £6.6 million included £2.1 million from Haven Services, its joint venture with CU.

A reduced average selling price of £60,000 suggests the 360 completed but unsold units is worth around £1.6 million, with the 409-unit land bank and work in progress valued at around £13 million. Anglia's survival looks a close run thing.

Wyko

WYKO may well have performed better in the second half than it did in the first, but overall results for the year ended April 30 are still disappointing.

The stop-go-stop mood of customers in committing their companies to spend left Wyko uncertain about the flow of orders, and but for the profit and turnover contribution from EW Bearings.

which it took over on October 1, pre-tax profits might have been even lower than the £1.38 million (£1.53 million) reported, on sales of £55.5 million (£48.4 million). But the real damage comes at the net level with earnings down 43.6 per cent at 2.37p. The damage follows a 51.5 per cent fax charge, and the issue of extra charges.

The dividend is maintained at a total 2.8p a share, but at the expense of dipping into reserves to pay the increased £904,000 bill.

There is, however, some glimmer of hope. First-quarter trading in the international division is somewhat better. The Bearings acquisition has been integrated, so there is operational gearing potential to savour once there is a tick in economic activity. Gearing is down from 59 per cent to 24 per cent.

Pre-tax profits could advance to £2 million this year, to put the shares at 57p on 14.3 times prospective earnings. They have recovery potential, but until the economy does tick, the speculative edge remains.

Continental wins voting rights case

CONTINENTAL, fresh from a victory over Italian suitor Pirelli, scored another win yesterday when a court ruled a majority of 75 per cent was required to abolish its defence against hostile takeovers.

The ruling by the State High Court of Lower Saxony in Celle confirms a decision by Continental's annual meeting in 1989 that never took effect as it was contested by Andreas Nolte, a shareholder. Continental lost the first round of its battle with Mr Nolte when a Hanover district court on December 20, 1990 agreed it had failed to follow the appropriate procedures by not clearly stating in the invitation to the annual meeting that a change to the voting rights limitation was proposed.

The move by Continental to tighten the requirements for scrapping its voting rights limit was initiated more than a year before Pirelli embarked on its failed plan to merge the tyre operations of the two firms in September 1990.

Continental adopted the 5 per cent limit on the voting rights of any shareholder in 1984 as a defence against such hostile takeovers.

WORLD MARKETS

Light profit-taking trims US blue chips

New York — Shares were mixed in morning trading as some light profit-taking sapped the strength of the Dow Jones industrial average, although general and secondary shares were firmer. The Dow average slipped 1.39 points to 3,357 after a brief early rally.

□ Tokyo — The market staged a technical recovery, but the Nikkei index closed only modestly firmer after giving up early gains. The Nikkei rose 52.29 points, or 0.31 per cent, to 17,116.92. Turnover rose to about 240 million shares, compared with 209 million shares on Tuesday. Some buying of issues that were supported by special factors and arbitrage programs underpinned prices, but most investors remained on the sidelines amid a lack of incentives. Rising issues outnumbered falls by about three to two, with 533 shares higher, 347 lower and 215 unchanged.

□ Frankfurt — Dealings slowed to a crawl before today's Bundesbank council

meeting as a mixed bag of views on what the central bank will do to curb rampant money supply growth forced investors to take to the sidelines. The Dax index ended 0.52 of a point higher at 1,734.62. Prices have lost about 1.25 per cent since last Friday because of a growing fear that Germany's central bank will tighten credit.

□ Hong Kong — Prices finished higher as funds and small investors switched to selected second-liners in thin, subdued trading. The blue-chip Hang Seng Index closed up 28.27 points, or 0.46 per cent, at 6,125.44.

□ Singapore — Bank and marine shares fell in moderate volume on poor sentiment and liquidation of positions in lacklustre trade. The Straits Times Industrial index slipped 2.63 points to 1,481.15.

□ Sydney — Shares closed slightly lower with investors depressed about prospects for the economy. The all-ordinaries index closed 2.1 points down at 1,636.7.

(Reuters)

Building sector suffers on broker's worst-case view

THE prospect of an early recovery in the recession-hit building industry appears to becoming increasingly remote with each day that passes.

Shares in the sector have been under a cloud for some time and were again under pressure yesterday. County Amersham, the broker, has

warned clients that in future forecasts are likely to be based on the worst-case scenario for the industry. This anticipates that no recovery will be in progress until 1994 at the earliest.

That scenario would lead to an industry-wide series of redundancies, plant closures, stock write-offs and asset write-downs. The warning found its target among the building suppliers with losses recorded in Meyer International, 10p to 31p, BPi Industries, 2p to 143p, Blue Circle Industries, 4p to 206p, Hepworths, 3p to 347p, Pilkington, 6p to 107p, RMC Group, 10p to 526p, Redland, 9p to 464p, and Tarmac, 2p to 35p.

The builders also came

under pressure with Anglia Secure Homes halving to 6p, after trading news. Bett Brothers, 6p lower at 55p, EBC Group, 5p to 88p, Havelock Europe, 2p to 58p, Taylor Woodrow, 5p to 70p, and Wilson Bowden, 4p to 356p.

It was not the best backdrop for Anglian Windows, making its public debut. The price opened at 203p, before recovering some of its price to close at 205p compared with the original offer price of 210p.

Dealers said it was inevitable that the shares would open at a discount after receiving

such a poor response from investors. Of the 39 million shares on offer, only 6 per cent were taken up by the public. The building sector has fallen 7 per cent since the issue was priced.

But dealers say it may also bode badly for other sectors, where new issues are in the pipeline. This includes the

of 16p to 300p on the back of strong trading results.

The rest of the equity market saw another volatile session amid growing fears of a possible rise in interest rates in the wake of sterling's continued weakness against the mark. Prices were marked sharply higher first thing but the appearance of a big seller

its recent narrow trading range and today's Bundesbank meeting may provide the impetus for such a move.

BET held steady at 129p in the wake of this week's £200 million rights issue, which will be used to buy back £380 million of auction market preference shares.

But Thorntech, which has

raised money through Amersham in the past, fell 16p to 783p. Klettwort Benson, the broker, says the Amersham should be treated as debt and calculates that they would push gearing up to 115 per cent.

Born was also under pressure because of the threat of an enquiry by the Office of Fair Trading into the price of compact discs. This also left Rank Organisation 10p lower at 594p.

Wellcome firmed 1p to 878p as the deadline for the proposed share sale by the Wellcome Trust drew nearer.

News of a bid approach semi-shares of Templeton Galbraith, the fund manager, jumping 20p to 309p. The group said it had received several approaches that could lead to a bid or a joint venture.

There is also talk that Sir John Templeton is considering selling his controlling stake in the company.

Oil shares benefited from overnight buying in New York with BP's 3p firmer at 210.2p and Shell 5p at 485p. The group said it had received several approaches that could lead to a bid or a joint venture.

Not everyone was impressed with the figures from Tumkin, down 2p to 477p, showing profits 18 per cent up at £132 million. Yamaichi says there are problems ahead. Margins are under pressure and costs have already been cut to the bone. The shares are expected to underperform until firm signs of recovery.

stores sector, where MFI is due to begin trading on Friday after another poor take-up by the small investor. There were falls for Alexon, 4p to 213p, Austin Reed, 9p to 228p, Lloyds Chemists, 11p to 269p, and Next, 2p to 89p.

However, the drinks sector appeared calm ahead of the Taunton flotation. Rival HP Bulmer even managed a rise

in the futures market was enough to pull the rug from under the bulls. The FTSE 100 index up more than 17 points first thing, saw its lead steadily eroded to finish the session only 2.4 ahead at 2,486.4. Once again, turnover was thin with only 404 million shares changing hands.

But dealers say the market may be about to break out of

longer term, unless the government changes its position and allowed greater access to areas with large reserves of oil and gas.

Firms were currently revising downward their planned investment budgets, which had already been forecast to fall 12 per cent this year from 1991, Mr Murphy said.

High market volatility, however, meant it was very difficult to forecast prices, he said.

MICHAEL CLARK

BRITISH FUNDS

Washington — American crude oil production is declining at a rate of 250,000 barrels per day and output is

expected to fall to about 6.9 to 7 million barrels per day by the year end, according to the American Petroleum Institute.

Edward Murphy, API finance director, told a news conference that production was currently about 7.1 million barrels after a daily average of 7.24 million in the first half of this year. Mr Murphy

said demand for oil products, which rose by 1.6 per cent in the first half of this year, was not expected to improve substantially in the second half.

He noted that the first-half increase resulted from low-level comparisons a year earlier rather than any real strength in demand this year.

"We don't have a forecast, but I expect no substantial increase in demand in the second half."

He noted demand for jet

fuel and diesel fuel was growing, but overall demand was flat. Mr Murphy said petroleum consumption was still down by almost 2 per cent from 1990 and by 3.5 per cent from 1989, due to the continuing weakness in the economy. A solid recovery, if it emerged, would help boost demand, although this effect would be partly offset by improved vehicle efficiency.

Production, however, was unlikely to recover in the

short term, unless the government changed its position and allowed greater access to areas with large reserves of oil and gas.

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(Reuters)

SURREY BUILDING SOCIETY

The following revised rates of interest will apply from 16th July 1992

	GROSS CAR	GROSS PR	NET CAR	NET PR
SUPER PLUS ACCESS				
£75,000 OR MORE	10.77	10.49	8.02	7.87
£25,000 OR MORE	10.00	9.76	7.45	7.32
£10,000 OR MORE	8.90	8.71	6.64	6.53
£500 OR MORE	8.20	8.04	6.12	6.03
TESSA				
— PLUS 3% BONUS ON 1ST YEAR'S SAVINGS	—	10.00	—	—
£25,000 OR MORE	9.33	8.95	6.92	6.71
£15,000 OR MORE	7.89	7.62	5.86	5.71
MONTHLY INCOME				
£25,000 OR MORE	9.33	8.95	6.92	6.71
£15,000 OR MORE	7.89	7.62	5.86	5.71
INSTANT ACCESS				
£15,000 OR MORE	8.80	8.61	6.56	6.46
£5,000 OR MORE	7.90	7.75	5.89	5.81
£500 OR MORE	7.13</			

No subsidy please we're British

Those sceptical about the existence of level playing fields in Europe are having a good summer. Hard on the heels of the French government's substantial aid package for Groupe Bull, its so-called champion in the computing field, comes further news of a state-approved cash injection into Air France. British businessmen tend to be dismayed at the sight of French and other continental competitors benefiting from direct or indirect state aid. By contrast, the British Treasury and Department of Trade are stony hearted and empty handed. The French appear masters in the art of making regulations work their way. When no import controls are allowed, imported lamb is hijacked and burnt. Japanese videos were once directed through a single customs post where documentation was processed at snail's pace.

The bad old days are supposed to be over. But many warmly welcomed the angry reaction of Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine when he protested at the EC Commission's approval of the Bull deal, saying that aid on such a scale would seriously distort competition in the computer industry.

The captains of British industry are wary of politicians attempting to play god in the market place. The past two decades are littered with dud investment decisions where politics over-rode hard commercial logic. Britain's industrialists do not generally favour an interventionist Whitehall, but are growing increasingly uneasy at what they fear may be unfair aid elsewhere.

Of the two French decisions, Bull is more justifiable as a rescue package. One of the key tests applied in Brussels seeks to determine whether aid is made available on a commercial basis. Yesterday's support for Air France is questionable. Would a commercial investor sink cash into a state-owned airline that has lost £140 million over the past two years?

Britain should use its EC presidency to begin a process of rationalising state aid inside the Community. Otherwise, Mr Major will find business support for his pro-European policies ebbing away as a scramble for subsidies develops across the channel.

ASB forges ahead

David Tweedie insisted on going back to basic principles as the first task of the Accounting Standards Board before it started reforming detailed accounting standards. Things have not quite worked out that way. A controversial new standard on profit and loss accounts is likely to be promulgated this autumn before all the responses to yesterday's draft central chapters of the statement of principles come back from industry and the profession. The sense of the ASB chairman's order of priorities is still evident, for the principles were informing detailed work even as they were being drawn up.

They will underwrite further changes in future. More definitions of assets and liabilities that can be recognised in a company's accounts imply wide-ranging changes to other existing accounting standards which make sense in isolation. Discussion will be vigorous, but it will be hard to dispute, for instance, that contractually fixed future streams of benefits and payments are assets and liabilities, which would drastically restrict the scope for excluding any significant lease deals from balance-sheets. Likewise, acquirers or new-broom managers will find it hard to sustain the argument for writing off big, roughly estimated advance provisions for "reorganisation" if a liability is sensibly defined as requiring an obligation. The ASB is venturing into new territory of its own, particularly on the practical tests for whether items should be included in companies' accounts. This leading role is just what the ASB was set up to provide.

Today's results from Great Universal Stores may reveal little about the group, though there is a mood for change, writes William Kay

Great Universal Stores, which publishes its annual results today, is the enigma among retailers. Privately controlled, tightly run, the company feeds off enquiries with the zeal of a secret society. Yet pressure is mounting for change at GUS, which in its modern shape is effectively the creation of the late Sir Isaac Wolfson.

John Chataway, of Carr Kite & Arden, the stockbroker that is one of the City's closest followers of GUS, says: "With no one to follow in the family footsteps, Sir Isaac's son, Lord Wolfson, who is 64 and a working peer in the House of Lords, is faced with a management succession problem. A possible answer might be breaking up the GUS empire into various component parts and refloating of the individual companies on the London Stock Exchange."

Mr Chataway says the component parts of the group — they embrace the Burberrys, Scotch House mail order brands and John England mail order brands — are worth comfortably in excess of the stock's present market value of £3.8 billion. He believes that the wheels were set in motion for a break-up of the group before the 1987 stock market crash, and that by next year all the main operating divisions should be earning record profits, underpinned by recovering property values. But it is certain that such a revolutionary change would require the management to endure countless agonies over the torrent of revelations about the business that would be necessary to meet the inevitable prospectus requirements. The group's current reporting policies show how painful this would be.

Twice a year, in order to comply with Stock Exchange regulations, GUS publishes an account of its trading. These bulletins normally depict a pebbly-smooth progression that defies belief, so well ordered and seemingly immune to external factors are they. But Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the auditor, certifies that the accounts give a true and fair view, and "outsiders" can expect no more. These announcements are accompanied by an annual report of about 24 pages, one of the most spartan of any company of a comparable size. Despite sales of close to £3 billion a year, the divisional review runs to the equivalent of one page, unsupported by figures. None of this is improper, and indeed there is a respectable case for the claim that such timeliness is in shareholders' interests. Why tell the competition more than you have to?

But an argument of similar strength could be made for the view that a greater willingness to explain might attract more shareholders, leading to a higher share price and



Voting with their feet: consumers still prefer the high street to shopping by phone and in catalogues

easier access to capital. However, such benefits have meant little to the management of GUS. Lord Wolfson would find it difficult to fund an acquisition by issuing voting shares, as he and his late father have shown reluctance to dilute the holding of the Wolfson Foundation, which, together with the board's shares, come to more than 50 per cent. The alternative, issuing non-voting shares, has become unacceptable to the investment community.

There has been discreet lobbying for GUS to renounce its 240 million non-voting A shares, which dwarf the 5.4 million all-powerful voting shares. Sir Isaac's death last year prompted speculation that GUS would at last bow to this pressure. SG Warburg, the merchant bank that advises GUS, would earn significant fees from that decision. However, its broking subsidiary concedes: "Assuming the company is reasonably satisfied with its average rating in the market, there is no financial logic to renunciation. We cannot see why the company should do so."

That suggests that Warburg may have pointed out to its client the advantages of a buoyant share price, but found its honeyed words falling on deaf ears. As for access to capital, last year's balance sheet showed long-term creditors of £46 million, compared with £474 million cash and shareholders' funds of £2.8 billion. Warburg Securities says: "One of the main features of GUS is the vast cash balances that the group has been able to build up over the years. What is especially significant about the balance sheet is that it is underpinned by conservative accounting policies."

Warburg loyalty denies that the succession to Lord Wolfson is a cause for concern, as the handover will be handled "extremely smoothly". Their stockbroking analysts say: "The most important feature about the GUS management team is, not so much the individuals involved, but rather the ethos or philosophy that envelops the group and creates a particular management style." That philosophy is based on cash maximisation, protecting net asset value, and being cost leaders in all operations. The formula has proved its worth in the current prolonged recession. Mr Chataway says: "Earnings growth in 1991-2 should again compare very favourably with other stores shares, while I look for growth of almost 10 per cent in 1992-3."

Nearly half the group's profits come from home shopping, as mail order is known these days. Most of it is based in the UK, but GUS also has operations in Austria, Sweden, Switzerland and The Netherlands. Those in the industry pay tribute to GUS's ability to select marketing options to suit changing conditions, striking out with "specialities" one year, protecting market share by trimming prices another year. In recent years, the group has moved towards direct selling, cutting out agents' 10 per cent commission, but also sacrificing the consumer loyalty that agents brought. Now many mail order customers collect several catalogues at a time and fit from one to another. Another recent trend has been towards telephone ordering. This is

aimed at avoiding what was once the recurrent headache of postal strikes. Ultimately, electronic services like Prestel and Cable TV will become the main ordering method, but the company is being typically cautious towards these innovations. The question mark over home shopping is whether it can halt its decline as a proportion of the total retail market. Postal strikes, the last of which was in 1988, and recession seem to take tolls that are never fully replaced. But the bigger worry is whether there is a structural shift taking place.

Historically, a main attraction of mail order was the ready availability of credit, in return for which many customers were willing to await delivery. That is why the sector sells mainly to poorer consumers. Says Warburg: "Over the past five years, the general home shopping offer has not really given value for money, excitement or even convenience or efficiency." The home shopping strategy is based on being the lowest price, but these operations are bolstered by profits from GUS's financial services division, which includes the vital credit-checking function.

The financial services arm of GUS includes an authorised bank, an insurance company, a computerised credit-control system and General Guarantee, a hire purchase and leasing business. All these subsidiaries serve third parties, including other mail order houses. However, they have inevitably been hit by the recession's impact on activity. The only saving grace has been the benefit from high interest rates on cash balances. GUS is also shielded from the worst of the recession by property.

In the 1950s and 1960s, the group made a series of retail acquisitions, of which Burberry's and Scotch House are virtually all it has held on to. However, when it sold such businesses as Times Furnishing and Stones Electrical, it kept their freeholds and long leases. Consequently, according to Warburg, it has a rental income amounting to £53 million in the year just ended. Burberry's and Scotch House are far more dependent on foreign than British customers. So, although they suffered during last year's Gulf war, trading has been relatively recession-proof. Burberry's also has a chain of outlets in America, the Far East and continental Europe, most of which are franchised.

The forthcoming figures will be scanned eagerly by analysts and competitors, seeking clues to what is going on inside the group's anonymous London office in Tonbridge Court Road. They are likely to be disappointed. But there is reason to believe that some important overseas retailing and mail order companies will be perusing the latest results with more than usual interest. For another way of arranging the succession at GUS would be to forge an alliance with the likes of Sears Roebuck of America or Germany's Otto Versand. The resulting infusion of management talent could allow Lord Wolfson to spend more time on his many private interests — while ensuring that the secrets of GUS remain shielded from the common gaze.

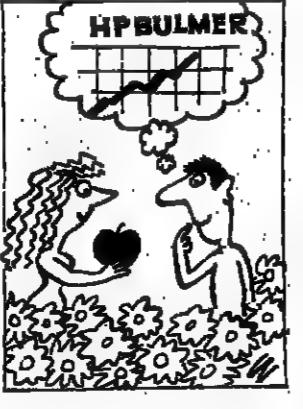
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Clash of styles

AN INCREASINGLY aggressive approach to European securities at Robert Fleming has led to the departure of Neale Stevenson, one of the directors on its European sales desk. Stevenson, a former electronics analyst, with Fleming for five years, was asked to leave last week because of what Chris Munro, his boss, calls "a clash of management styles. He is a very good salesman but his style was different to ours." Munro, head of UK and European agency broking at Fleming, agrees that the culture there has altered. "The UK side is fine; it is doing very well, but it has taken us a long time to get the European side organised." Fleming's European recruitment drive has seen an influx of new faces from Salomon Brothers, including David Gammon, a Spanish expert, and Martin Murch, a building sector specialist. Gammon will be moving to Madrid at the end of this year, to open a new office. Birthe Kunz, who has resigned from Deutschebank after 18 years, is due to join on November 1. Kunz will be responsible for all German sales and research.

Tight lines

AS JOURNALISTS from around the world telephoned George Westropp, Touche Ross communications director, at the height of the disclosures about BCCI — because Touche is the global liquidator of the failed bank — little did



Woman to woman

THE Labour party is taking great pains to choose a shadow minister to field against Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, who has won fans in certain quarters for her feminine and sympathetic style. Sources within the Labour party say it has decided against an aggressive type, such as Tony Blair, and is likely to opt instead for the softer attributes of Welsh-born Ann Clwyd, former Labour spokeswoman for overseas development and co-operation, who is standing for the post of deputy leader. It remains to be seen, however, which of the women will prove the more entertaining in the dispatch box. Shephard yesterday told journalists: "Though I'm a pragmatist, I have disturbing Jacobin tendencies, which, at times, have to be hidden."

TONY Lea, a non-executive director of Charter Consolidated, the industrial holding group, can walk into its annual meeting on August 4 with a smile on his face, confident that he will not be attacked as he was at the last annual meeting. In 1991, a shareholder demanded to know why Lea, alone among Charter's directors, held no shares in the company. Charter's annual report, distributed this week, reveals that Lea has since bought 100 Charter shares, currently worth 493p each.

CAROL LEONARD

Lloyd's committed to change

From the Chairman of Lloyd's of London

Sir Ian Hay Davison, the chief executive at Lloyd's between 1983 and 1986, championed the cause of effective self-regulation for the Lloyd's insurance market (Business News, July 9). It does him no credit that he seems to close his eyes to the continuing commitment shown by the Council of Lloyd's to strengthening our regulatory framework whenever this is shown to be necessary.

We have not stood still since the end of Mr Davison's time at Lloyd's. The Council has accepted the recommendations of the working party on a new structure of governance for Lloyd's under the chairmanship of Sir Jeremy Morse, one of the eight nominated members of the Council. I was pleased to note Mr Davison's support for the separation of regulation from the development of the business, which Sir Jeremy has recommended.

Mr Davison believes, however, that the recommendations do not go far enough and he foresees that a future mar-

ket chairman of the new look Council might seek to "recapture the regulatory ground as his own preserve". He has overlooked two important points. First, the composition of the regulatory board. Of its 14 members, only four will be working members of Lloyd's and these will not include the market chairman of Lloyd's. The remaining ten will comprise external members, whose appointments as now will be subject to approval by the Governor of the Bank of England and two senior officials of the Corporation of Lloyd's. The structure is, therefore, weighted heavily in favour of the external members and the public interest. This appears to have escaped Mr Davison's notice. Second, the chairman of the regulatory board will be one of the four nominated members of the Council, which provides a guarantee of independence. Yours faithfully,

D. E. COLE RIDGE,
Chairman,
Lloyd's of London,
One Lime Street, EC3.

Banks and the Mirror Group pensioners

From R. S. Attack

Sir, I see that smiling Sir John Cuckney has been given (presumably by the government) the unenviable task of going round, cap in hand, to various generous companies and City bodies that may or may not feel a degree of responsibility in the matter of the swindled Maxwell pensioners.

Why, however, is it necessary to go looking for donations when the provision already exists under English law for anyone in receipt of stolen goods to surrender them? Surely, some of the

securities which Maxwell lodged with the various banks are recoverable?

Why are the banks not to be compelled to give these up? At the very least they could make "donations".

Sir John's operation is a sop to the Mirror Group pensioners and the taxpayer, both of whom will bear the main cost of this mega-theft when all the hue and cry has died down.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. ATTACK,
Flat 1,
Farmborough Close,
Harrow.

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Please send me information on B.I.A.

To: David Burden, Marketing Director, International Investment Consultants Ltd., 30 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1SB.
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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your total value. Then divide by the current dividend figure. If it matches what you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money on the day of your card's draw, then a bonus card will be available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Geas or Bonds	Price	Net Div	%	P/E
1	Argus Plc	Drapery/Sts		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
2	Dacan	Property		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
3	Invergordon Dist.	Breweries		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
4	Morrison (W)	Foods		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
5	Shell	Oil/Gas		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
6	Pemco	Drapery/Sts		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
7	Reynolds (Charles)	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
8	Water Water	Water		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
9	Videx	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
10	Power Duffin	Transport		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
11	Cable Wireless	Electrical		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
12	Provident	Banks/Dis		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
13	Vodafone	Electrical		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
14	Slim Water	Water		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
15	News Int'l	Newspaper/Pub		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
16	Wilson (C)	Building/Dis		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
17	Security Serv	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
18	Chrysler Int'l	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
19	Allied Colloids	Chemicals/Pls		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
20	MERC	Property		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
21	Data	Electrical		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
22	Star Corp	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
23	Hew Gp	Building/Dis		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
24	Jardine Math	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
25	Coupe Vipela	Drapery/Sts		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
26	York Chem	Chemicals/Pls		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
27	Artemis Group	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
28	Glynned	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
29	Armenian	Chemicals/Pls		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
30	Cook (DC)	Motors/Air		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
31	Hi-Tec Sports	Leisure		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
32	Low & Bonar	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
33	Hogg Rostrum	Drapery/Sts		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
34	Brinsford	Property		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
35	Eurotunnel	Transport		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
36	Eascom	Leisure		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
37	M&B-Canada	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
38	Ashley (Laura)	Drapery/Sts		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
39	Nutri Foods	Foods		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
40	Abbey Nat	Banks/Dis		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
41	Northumbrian	Water		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
42	Triplex Lloyd	Industrial		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
43	Scars	Drapery/Sts		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
44	Kidwelly Ben	Banks/Dis		102	1.2	1.2	10.5
© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total							

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily goals for the weekly dividends of £3,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Mr G Fitzsimon, of Muswell Hill, London, won the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday.

High Low Company Price Net Div % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP							
217	Abbey Nat		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
218	Alfred Holt		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
219	Barclays		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
220	Bauers New		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
221	Deutsche		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
222	Edwards (W)		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
223	First Int'l		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
224	Grindlays		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
225	Hutton		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
226	ICB		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
227	Investec		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
228	Leeds Nat		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
229	London		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
230	Montgomery		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
231	Northumbrian		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
232	Prudential		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
233	RBS		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
234	Scotiabank		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
235	Standard Chartered		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
236	State Bank		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
237	Swiss		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
238	Telewest		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
239	Westpac		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
240	Wells Fargo		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
241	Wessex		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
242	Witney		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
243	Woolwich		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
244	Yardley		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
245	Zurich		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
246	ABN Amro		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
247	Amoco		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
248	BP		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
249	Citibank		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
250	HSBC		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
251	ICI		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
252	Midland		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
253	NatWest		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
254	Standard		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
255	Trustco		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
256	Unicredit		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
257	Westpac		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
258	Witney		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
259	Woolwich		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
260	Yardley		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
261	ABP		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
262	BP		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
263	HSBC		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
264	ICI		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
265	Midland		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
266	NatWest		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
267	Standard		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
268	Trustco		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
269	Unicredit		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
270	Westpac		103	1.2	1.2	1.2	10.5
271	Witney	</td					

ACCOUNTANCY TIMES

Abolitionists are 'both misguided and wrong'

Limited liability means small firms must accept the audit

David Bishop believes that the audit is more of a help than a hindrance to small companies and should not be removed

AT A time when the auditing profession is under unprecedented attack for, at best, naivety and, at worst, duplicity as a result of a series of corporate failures, each more spectacular than the last, it is perhaps not surprising that there are again carefully orchestrated calls for the abolition of the small company audit. However, those who advocate abolition are not only misguided and wrong, but also rely on a simplistic argument to justify the unjustifiable.

It would be foolish to pretend nothing is wrong with the auditing process. This is understood and is the reason why the accountancy profession, through the Accountancy Standards Board, the Auditing Practices Board, and the Cadbury Committee, is seeking and finding ways of improving the accounting and auditing process and judgment. But to argue that the problems with the audit and the welfare of small companies would consequently be improved by its abolition requires a huge leap of the imagination.

Small companies are subject to an audit because they have chosen to have the protection of limited liability. Therefore, if the business goes bust, the directors cannot be forced to repay all the company's debts from their personal assets. If this legal protection did not exist, few people would start down the entrepreneurial road and the sanity of those who did would be rightly questioned. However, limited liability must be a two-way process. The budding entrepreneur must be prepared to open his or her books to protect the interests of potential customers, creditors, business associates and the public.

There is a simple principle involved: no audit, no protection. Those who choose not to have an audit should not enjoy

the privileges of limited liability. That is why the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants remains resolute in its belief that the statutory audit must remain.

Nevertheless, there are some who continue to argue that the audit is unnecessary for small companies and that most would prosper if this "imposition" was withdrawn. The reverse is true. Recent statistics from France indicate that although there are three times as many unaided companies as audited, there were no fewer than eight times as many bankruptcies among unaided companies. Therefore, the audit should not be seen negatively, as a bureaucratic hindrance to the development of small companies, but as an aid to their survival and growth. Moreover, it is easy to assume that the small company sector plays a relatively unimportant part in the economy of the country. This is just not true. The legal definition of a small company is one that has less than £2 million turnover, fewer than 50 employees and total assets of less than £975,000. The most recent information indicates that out of 2.5 million firms in this country, 98 per cent employ less than 50 people, providing 42.6 per cent of the country's employment and 23.1 per cent of its turnover.

The audit is undoubtedly an essential tool in raising finance and obtaining contracts. Banks and other financial institutions rely on it when deciding upon lending companies. Large companies use it for assessing financial management, competence, and financial stability when considering dealership appointments and supply contracts. Tax inspectors are more likely to agree assessments when accounts have been audited and credit rating agencies

use the audit when compiling status reports.

Traditionally, the Inland Revenue has found the statutory audit useful in providing tax officials with authorised information on company accounts. The UK, currently, is notable among European countries for the relatively small number of tax inspectors employed to monitor such accounts. Those who call for the abolition of the audit should remember that the

amount of money spent on tax inspection in this country is considerably less than elsewhere.

In addition, the burden of small businesses would face if an IR audit was imposed on them would be greater than the fees attached to the statutory audit.

Given the importance of small companies, it is right that we should be seeking ways constantly to encourage them. For example, the current penalties imposed on

companies that no longer wish to have limited liability status should be relaxed. It should also be made more difficult to form a limited company.

However, there is no justification for the wholesale abolition of the audit requirement and we trust the government will ask those who are lobbying for it to think again.

The author is president of the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.



"No audit, no protection": David Bishop favours the benefits of limited liability

The budding entrepreneur must be prepared to open his books'

Small firms live with the threat of acquisition

Networking to compete in Europe

BY JOHN LESLIE

EARLIER this year, phones started to ring at the offices of Stoy Hayward, the London base of the Horwath International accounting group. The calls were from partners in Torsenov Horwath, the group's Swedish member firm. As the picture cleared, Horwath found itself facing the overnight defection of 80 percent of its Swiss offices, many in the more important commercial centres, to the rival Ernst & Young.

It was a typical skirmish in the intensely competitive battleground occupied by European accounting groups. Horwath, a leader among the "second tier" networks with 127 main offices in Europe and fee income of \$278 million in 1990, was still dwarfed by Ernst & Young.

Among the larger groups, the twin imperatives of growth and geographical expansion require regular feeding through mergers and acquisitions. For such major groups, increase in size — in fee income, staff numbers, office spread and market share — is a goal in itself. They believe that clients are attracted by the firm's size. This is not unreasonable; a firm's size often correlates with its ability to offer a broad range of services in any of the countries in which a client company trades. And size generally, if not invariably, aids productivity and profitability so, in theory at least, the firm has more to reinvest.

The massive integrated accountancy groups are by no means the only players in the European accountancy market, however. The recently published European Accountancy Yearbook lists 47 pan-European or international networks of firms, many of which have a philosophy exactly opposed to that of the superleague practices.

The majority of the European networks represent the smaller accountancy firms, and share at least one common goal — to enable their

members to remain independent. Many started out in the mid-1970s, as business clubs enabling member firms to refer clients to other members in different countries. In the face of increasing competition and the danger of being swallowed up, smaller firms have strengthened their networks and placed greater emphasis on information sharing, joint training, pooled research and development and have even moved into quality control "audits", in groups such as Midsnell International.

Rising competition, combined with the challenges offered by the European single market, led to a further surge in network formation in the late 1980s. One of the most recent is Channel International, with just eight members (principal offices in the European networks average 83). Coopers & Lybrand Europe has 350.

The smaller firms have always offered a closer relationship between clients and

Calling lawyers to account

SOLICITORS will soon have even more reason to keep their books in order judging from efforts by the Law Society to beef up its investigations team.

The Solicitors Complaints Bureau, which is responsible among other things for investigating solicitors' books of account, has launched a recruitment drive for "mature and experienced" accountants to enlarge its team. In return for a salary of £25,000 and a car — or mileage allowance in the case of temporary recruits — prospective candidates are expected to give more than their best. The brief calls for at least part-qualified candidates with professional audit exper-

partners. According to the European Accountancy Yearbook, the average ratio of partners to total staff among the smaller networks is 1:7.5; among the "second-tier" firms it rises to 1:10; and in the big six it reaches 1:20.

The strategic issue which faces the smaller firms, however, is whether the pooling of information and resources will be good enough in an increasingly

market place. Despite harmonisation measures, national differences in accountancy practice and regulation remain massive.

The directive on mutual recognition of professional qualifications will allow accountants to work in other member states, but will do nothing to create a single market for accountancy. It may prove difficult for the networks of smaller firms to compete with the central control, co-ordination and consistency which the major firms can offer. If they do, they run the risk of

losing independence and individuality. Smaller networks may also find it hard to keep up with the expenditure needed to serve clients with overseas interests.

The signs are that life will continue to get tougher for the smaller firms and their networks as even smaller, and medium, companies move into European markets and the major firms continue their "raids" in search of market share (a 1990 analysis of the Financial Times' Top 500 European companies showed 83 per cent were audited by big six firms compared with 98 per cent in a similar study of the US audit market).

Torsten Lyyt, partner in Ernst & Young in Sweden, said of the Torsenov firms' move from Horwath: "To serve big clients we must have a strong network internationally. The concentration of audit services to a few big firms in Sweden is a reflection of what will happen in the rest of Europe. It's a client-driven development."

For larger groups, the imperative of growth requires regular feeding'

ence, an enquiring mind and good communication skills. Candidates must be prepared to "handle pressure with a calm approach and a sense of humour" and be willing to

Bleak houses

THE top 20 accountancy firms shed more than 10 per cent of their staff last year, some 3,983 individual posts. The sharpest cuts were made by the Big Four. Price Waterhouse, Ernst & Young, KPMG Peat Marwick and Coopers & Lybrand, which cut more than 2,600 jobs between

them. Prospects for graduates remain bleak, according to Robert Half and Accountants

trials. The Comptains Bureau is planning to relocate from its present offices in Victoria, in west London, sometime in 1993... probably to the Midlands.

Stroll on

HATS off to the team from Arthur Andersen that joined thousands of energetic volunteers for the Cadbury's "Strollerthon" through the streets of London last Sunday. Twenty-eight accountants and consultants from the firm swapped their pinstripes for

The tax haven may have had its day

YOU can tell that the world has turned upside down. A chartered accountant MP has introduced a bill in the House of Commons to stop anyone, accountants included, from having any transactions with tax havens. Back in the good old days of tax avoidance, back in the 1970s extremely bright young accountants would jostle with the Inland Revenue. The result of their efforts would be the saving of a huge amount of tax for a client or series of clients. But the real point of it was in the game. At a time of extraordinarily high tax rates and hugely complex legislation it was a question of thinking laterally and producing a scheme which somehow squeezed past the Revenue's defences.

There was an air of the Edwardian short story about it. Bright young men came up with discoveries which enabled them seemingly to defy gravity. There was an innocence surrounding the practitioners Ron Plummer and Roy Tucker, who as the brains behind Rosslynshire came up with the most famous schemes, were reputed to have honed their knowledge of the legislation on their way into work. One of them on a bicycle, one of them running alongside. The one shouting out the numbers of the clauses, the other shouting back the relevant measures that they contained.

No one seemed to get hurt. But the problems arose when high tax rates became low tax rates. Any moral justification for running assets through an extraordinary cross-border, cross-country race evaporated. What the recession of the late 1980s has exposed is that the story is different when the pensioners of the Maxwell empire discover that while the UK company has no cash to pay pensions, other parts of the empire can shelter their responsibilities behind tax haven secrecy.

Hence the need for the remarkably sensible legislation put forward by David Shaw, the Conservative MP for Dover, last week in his Transactions with Tax Havens (Sanctions) Bill.

The beauty of Shaw's effort is that it approaches the problem head-on and avoids the traditional method of picking one's way, compromise after compromise, through the minefield of special interests. The problem with many recent scandals, Barlow Clowes, BCCI, Maxwell, for example, is that ultimately the real pattern of the business lost in the secrecy of tax haven law. So you come up with a simple answer — no UK company, or its advisers, can legally have anything to do with a tax haven which could put their money out of reach of UK citizens.

Shaw is not concerned with the traditional benefits of tax havens — the low rates of tax. It is the secrecy that concerns him. The closed doors which stop the recovery of Maxwell pensioners' money are the real target. In his draft bill, the definition of a tax haven is "a country which does not have laws which require the disclosure of corporate, trustee, personal information to an interested United Kingdom person in the event of a monetary

loss taking place and (ii) provide for the recovery of such money". In other words, he is attacking the problem at its heart. The romantic view of tax havens has changed.

"The use of the words 'tax havens' is less and less appropriate as they become more and more fraud havens", he argued in the House. "In the past ten years, there have been nine Department of Trade and Industry company investigations which have found extensive details of fraud involving Switzerland and Liechtenstein. Those DTI investigations also detailed the part that other tax havens have played in assisting frauds through the provision of a cloak of secrecy behind which crooks can operate."

Secrecy, which provided the only means of support for banks such as BCCI, is the target. The romantic days of the Bungle books, when the hero's parents used to pop across the Swiss border to organise some funds, are over.

Shaw knows, the world knows, that only villains do that these days. But he takes the proposed legislation further. Being an accountant, he knows that it is not just corporate skulduggery that has to be curtailed. "One has only to look at the large firms of UK accountants that maintain associate offices in the tax havens to see how big the business has become," he said. Hence clause 6(i) in his draft bill: "An individual accountant or firm of accountants which is authorised in the United Kingdom under Companies Acts to carry out audits may not maintain an office in a tax haven or any association with a firm of accountants or lawyers in a tax haven." The penalties would also be simple. Fines of not more than £1 million and imprisonment of not more than 10 years would be imposed, and if the losses due to the fraud exceed £1 million and have not been repaid then the fines and

prison terms can be tripled.

As Shaw concluded: "If the proposals in my bill had been law there would have been no Maxwell fraud, no BCCI fraud and many other frauds would have been prevented."

That may be taking it too far. Fraudsters will always find a way if they are determined. But the Bank of England is known to favour removing the benefits of bank ownership from secretive havens. The Revenue is keen to follow transactions to their roots.

Shaw's bill is speculative, like most introduced under the ten minute rule. It is a marker. But it had cross-party sponsors and surely contains the principles with which to rid the financial world of the safe havens of the fraudster.

If the accountancy firms were to recognise that the world has indeed been turned upside down, even they should be providing support for Shaw's campaign. And also, quietly and discreetly closing down a few overseas offices which have suddenly become surplus to requirements.

The author is the Associate Editor of Accountancy Age



Joint venture: Douglas Llambias looks for partners

Time to call in the matchmaker

When firms start to think about mergers, Douglas Llambias can offer them a discreet service. Edward Fennell reports

WHEN the leading partners at Arthur Andersen and Price Waterhouse went into a huddle over a possible merger a couple of years ago, the business world held its breath. The decision not to merge was received as a puzzling anticlimax. Surely, said the commentators, there must be a better way to handle such a deal?

In the past two months, Baker Tilly and Milne Ross, and Stoy Hayward and Finnie & Co., have shown that there is. As it happens, both mergers were negotiated by Douglas Llambias' Business Exchange. Apart from being coups for Mr Llambias, the two mergers show the advantage of having an independent third party — a marriage broker — to undertake preliminary research and discussion.

The public image of firms, including large ones, is often misleading," Mr Llambias says. "The kind of rumours and impressions which get around the accountancy world as gossip are usually partial or inaccurate. It needs to come in objectively, get the facts, and evaluate

the truth about firms before any merger negotiations start."

Anonymity and confidentiality are critical in the early stages of negotiations. When Mr Llambias is commissioned to search for possible merger partners, he will spend up to three months gathering information and meeting partners, to establish a shortlist. He will not, at this stage, reveal whom he is acting for, nor will he feed back to his client information about the firms to which he has been talking.

"I will start by drawing up a long list of firms who may be appropriate," he says. "I will be looking for information on the structure of the partnership, its ownership, profitability, strengths, weaknesses and sense of direction. In connection with one of the recent mergers, for example, I approached, in confidence, 16 firms for strictly private discussions in order to establish whether or not they were interested and suitable."

The chances are that in such circumstances only half the firms at most would be serious candidates for a merger. At

that stage the firms would be invited to shortlisting meetings to discuss why it might be in their interests to merge.

"What you have to offer is a vision of the future. The merged firm is going to be something different from the existing partnerships. In some cases Mr Llambias will advise firms to reorganise themselves first before looking for a merger partner. Second, there must be a timetable for the negotiation process and that timetable must be adhered to. Otherwise the process will lose momentum and drag on inappropriately with all the damaging results that this can entail."

Despite his own success as a deal maker, Mr Llambias is himself in two minds about the benefits of larger firms — certainly as far as the public is concerned. His own view is that the profession has had merger mania foisted upon it by the banks and other intermediaries. Size implies credibility in the eyes of the bankers but it does not necessarily guarantee better service or indeed better careers for partners.

"But I think the commitment to size is here to stay," he says. "I foresee more mergers ahead. The two recent ones are just part of a continuing trend."



JON ASHWORTH



Severiano Ballesteros's hole-by-hole guide to Muirfield

SEVERIANO Ballesteros does not regard Muirfield, where the Open Championship starts today, as his favourite golf course but he does have the utmost respect for it as an honest examination. "It is a great golf course," he says. "One of the best tests. But I do think the sides of the bunkers are too steep."

"I know you must expect to be penalised if you stay into a bunker. Yet I still think you should be able to get at the flag from out of them. There are times at Muirfield when you have no option but to play away from the flag. I know, I've done that."

Bernard Darwin, a former golf correspondent of *The Times*, once ventured into one of these sandy caverns. He is alleged to have shouted to the heavens: "And don't send your son down. Getting out of here is a man's job."

Arnold Palmer found out in 1987 why Darwin vented such fury. Palmer, then 57 years old, was playing well, but he found a bunker grave to the right of the 14th. A thrash, or two or five later and he had a ten on his card. "I wouldn't say that God couldn't have got it out but He'd have had to have thrown it," Palmer said.

Tom Watson pointed to the severity of the bunkers at Muirfield in 1980 when he won the third of his five Open titles. "I was in only one bunker that year which probably won me the championship," Watson said. "The bunkers are like little water hazards. If you go in one, then it is a shot dropped. If you go in five or six, then you cannot expect to win."

In fact, Gary Player triumphed in 1959 when he got up and down 11 times out of 12 from the sand. And Nick Faldo was successful in 1987 despite being in three of the bunkers in the last round. But he admitted he was fortunate to get good lies.

Jack Nicklaus confirmed his admiration for Muirfield by naming his own course in Dublin, Ohio, Muirfield Village, and his opinion of the bunkers was that it was as if a master mason had been employed to create them. "They are the most fantastically-built bunkers I have ever seen," Nicklaus said.

Ballesteros, however, cannot camouflage his delight at being back at the Open this week. "I think all the courses which the Royal and Ancient select for the Open are great," he said. "The wind is always a factor, but if it blows at Muirfield then the course becomes a monster. I like a good wind, but not a wild one. If it blows harder than 20 mph, then it can get out of control. I think if the wind speed is 15 mph, then that is fantastic."

"This time at Muirfield it should be better. In 1987 the Royal and Ancient was wrong to try to do what the United States Golf Association does at the US Open. The rough was unfair. It is not meant to be long and thick so close to the greens at the Open. The tradition is that the wind protects the course and, if it blows, then you have to play low shots, punch shots and running shots. And if the wind doesn't blow and the scores are low, then what is wrong with that?"

Ballesteros won his Opens at Royal Lytham and St Annes in 1979 and 1988 and at St Andrews in 1984. His intention is to win a fourth title at



Courtesy Santa/David Hart

Muirfield, and here is how he intends to go about it.

Hole 1 (447 yards, par 4)

A very good first hole — The hardest thing is to put the ball on the fairway — the tee shot is very tight, very intimidating, especially when there is a cross-wind, and the bunker on the left and the rough on the right narrow the landing area. I will probably take a one-iron every day off the tee. The second shot, with probably a four or a five, is not meant to be so difficult. The green is flat, quite well protected, with a deep bunker to the left. If you go in five or six, then you cannot expect to win."

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NICK FALDO

Born: Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire. Age: 34 (35 on

long way from the hole then two puts is good.

Hole 4 (180 yards, par 3)

It is a tough hole — I think the toughest par three at Muirfield. You can have a four-iron on an elevated tee because it is a little uphill and again the wind is a big factor. It plays longer than it looks. The green is well protected with bunkers. The wind often blows from right to left so you see it well from the tee, but you can also see the bunkers! To make par here is good. I will be pleased not to drop a shot through the week.

Hole 2 (351 yards, par 4)

A good chance to make an early birdie. I will probably hit a one-iron again from the tee, although you must take the bunker left and right out of play, and then it can be only a pitching wedge. The green slopes a little from right to left towards the boundary wall. With a pitching wedge, you should miss the five bunkers to the right. The green is flat, quite well protected, with a deep bunker to the left. I will be happy with a four each day.

Hole 3 (379 yards, par 4)

It is a one-iron again from the tee unless the wind is against, when it becomes a driver. I want to be short of the two deep bunkers at the end of the fairway and a little to the left because you get a better view of the green from there. Then it should be something like a seven or an eight. It is another hole if there is no wind, where you can think of making a birdie. If the wind blows then it is difficult; if it doesn't then it is comfortable. Not easy, because it is never easy, but comfortable. The green is flat but quite big so if you are a

small flat green is slightly raised but I find it easier to read than some others.

Hole 7 (185 yards, par 3)

This usually takes something like a four- or a five-iron because it is a little uphill and again the wind is a big factor. It plays longer than it looks. The green is well protected with bunkers. The wind often blows from right to left so you see it well from the tee, but you can also see the bunkers! To make par here is good. I will be pleased not to drop a shot through the week.

Hole 5 (559 yards, par 5)

It can be a very difficult hole, demanding three good shots if the wind is against. I don't think it is a recovery hole. Without a wind, you can get up and down with a sand wedge from close range to make a four, but any time the wind blows then it is very tough. It is always a driver off the tee and it is possible to go for the green in two, it is better to play short. I always like to leave myself a hill sand wedge — for me about 90 yards — for the third shot. There are many bunkers — let me see, six, seven, ten, 12, 15 — maybe 18. Is that enough?

Hole 6 (469 yards, par 4)

A good dog-leg to the left. The tee shot is difficult. I think without the wind the line is probably over the right one of four bunkers which sit in the dog-leg, but only without wind. It is, perhaps, better to play safe here, which is a touch to the right, although the rough is there to narrow the landing area again. If you hit a good tee shot then the next one should be with a five or a six, more if the wind is against or a lot less if it is behind you. The

iron to a green which is a little bit out of sight, with some dead ground in front of it, because you are playing slightly uphill. The green slopes from left to right.

Hole 9 (504 yards, par 5)

This is a birdie chance. If you hit two good shots, you should be on the green without too much trouble. The second shot is more demanding than the tee shot. You can use a driver off the tee, even if it looks narrow, because it takes some of the pressure off the next shot which, unless the wind is against, is cleverly protected.

Hole 11 (385 yards, par 4)

I will take the one-iron almost for certain again because it is a blind tee shot over the sand dunes and I like to be a little to the left. The next shot is usually with an eight or a nine to a very small, very well-protected green. There is a hollow on the right side, so it is very important to get the right distance, but you have to think hard because there are a lot of bunkers over the back. It is a tough green, with a ridge running through it, and when the pin is at the back then it is a very difficult approach. But the greens at Muirfield are always very good with a consistent pace.

Hole 12 (381 yards, par 5)

The hole runs downhill so the fairway bunkers are easily in play. It will be an iron from the tee for me. The green is so long, at least three clubs' difference from front to back, so it is difficult to say what club I will be going in with, but it is important to be right. You will see a lot of people putting from 50' or more. But it should be a birdie chance because with no wind and a short iron to the green then the bunkers should not be a worry.

Hole 13 (159 yards, par 3)

This is a very slim green to hit and the bunkers around it are very deep. It might be only a seven or an eight, depending on the wind, but it is still a good shot if the wind is blowing because you hit from a high tee so it is difficult to

control the ball. After a good driver, it is still a three- or a four-iron, maybe even a wood, as the wind is often against, and you cannot always see all of the green. There is no room for error, as the rough is normally very thick, and the green, which is quite big, is in the front right bunker and I could not go at the flag — I had to aim back towards the tee. The green slopes from back to front with a little contour to the right and with the wind usually coming from the left then those bunkers on the right will be well fed. But a great hole — one of the best.

Hole 14 (449 yards, par 4)

I will take the one-iron almost for certain again because it is a blind tee shot over the sand dunes and I like to be a little to the left. The next shot is usually with an eight or a nine to a very small, very well-protected green. There is a hollow on the right side, so it is very important to get the right distance, but you have to think hard because there are a lot of bunkers over the back. It is a tough green, with a ridge running through it, and when the pin is at the back then it is a very difficult approach. But the greens at Muirfield are always very good with a consistent pace.

Hole 15 (417 yards, par 4)

Another great hole — you only remember how many there are as you go through them one by one. I think it must be the driver, unless the wind is behind as it was in 1987, and the place to be is between the set of three bunkers and the two cross bunkers further ahead — and, of course, on the fairway. If you go in the sand then you will drop a shot almost for certain. Then I think it will be a three or a four. The wind also drives this green out so it becomes even harder to get the ball to stay on the putting surface. You must take a six-iron to the green, surrounded by bunkers. The two on the left have more visitors than the others.

Hole 16 (188 yards, par 3)

If the wind blows against it could be a wood. At best it will take a five-iron and if the wind comes from the left, it might be only a seven or an eight, depending on the wind, but it is still a good shot if the wind also drives this green out so it becomes even harder to get the ball to stay on the putting surface. You must hit a good shot — or you are in

trouble because those bunkers are very deep again. The right side is the best to miss on but you are better not to miss. As the green faces the tee, and the hole is a little bit uphill, you can see it all from the tee.

Hole 17 (550 yards, par 5)

Against the wind, it has to be one of the toughest par fives I have ever played. You can play an iron from the tee or a driver but the bunkers on the left are all in play and there is out of bounds on the right. It is difficult to hit the second shot over the four fairway bunkers some 100 yards from the green — sometimes you must play short. If you do then the third becomes a blind shot. If it is against the wind then you could be going in with a four or a five or for your third shot. If there is no wind, then maybe you can get home with a driver and three-wood — maybe.

Hole 18 (443 yards, par 4)

This offers a great second shot — very demanding. It is a demanding tee shot, too, because of the bunkers, two of the left and one to the right, and because the wind is usually left to right. A good tee shot will leave you with probably a five-iron to a narrow green into which the bunkers seem to eat more and more. It could be a driver of the tee — it depends what you are looking for. If I am standing there one shot ahead then I will probably take a one- or a three-iron — and put the emphasis on the second shot. If I need a birdie then I will have to hit the driver. It's like every hole — it depends on how you feel, how you are hitting the ball and what you need. I hope I have ten for the Open.

Interview by
Mitchell Plants

THE OPEN'S TWELVE PLAYERS TO FOLLOW



Azinger: score to settle



Baker-Finch: finely tuned game



Montgomery: pressured



Watson: pursuing record



Woosnam: positive mood

HOW TO GET THERE: From north and east of England: Normal routes via the A1 then the A198 via North Birkdale to Muirfield, or route via A88 then signposted route via the B6368 to Haddington, continuing on the A6137, B1377 and B1345 joining the A198. From west of England: Normal routes via the A74 via Birkdale to join the Edinburgh City bypass (A20) eastwards on to the A1, then as directed by Open Golf signposting. From west and central Scotland: Normal routes via the A8 and A9 to join the Edinburgh City bypass (T202) then above from north and east Scotland: Normal route via the M90 and A90 Queen Street Road, then take the signposted route via the A902 Tantallon Road and Ferry Road, A199 Commercial Street and Seaford Road, or to the Portobello bypass joining the A1, then as above.

PRIZE-MONEY: Total: at least £250,000. Winner: £95,000. Second: £75,000. Third: £64,000. Fourth: £33,000. Fifth: £24,000. Sixth: £21,000. Seventh: £20,000. Eighth: £18,000. Ninth: £16,500. Tenth: £15,000. Eleventh: £14,000. Twelfth: £13,500. Thirteenth: £13,000. Fourteenth: £12,500. Fifteenth: £12,000. Sixteenth: £11,500.

PLAY-OFF HOLES: 15, 16, 17, 18.

LOWEST WINNING TOTALS: 268: T. Watson (GB), 1986; G. Player (SA), 1986; J. Nicklaus (US), 1972; L. Trevino (US), 1980; T. Watson (US), 1987; N. Faldo (GB).

FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS: 1993: Royal St George's Golf Club, Sandwich, Kent (July 15 to 18).

1994: The Alst Course, Turnberry (July 14 to 17), 1995: The Old Course, St Andrews (July 20 to 23); 1996: Royal Lytham and St Annes Golf Club (July 18 to 21).

ADMISSION CHARGES: See son tickets; Available for practice days and the four Championship days, price £16. Senior citizens and juveniles under 18, half-price all days. Car parking: £5 (all days).

RECENT WINNERS: See son tickets; T. Watson (US), 1982 (Tee); T. Watson (US), 1983 (Sandwich); T. Watson (US), 1984 (Sandwich); S. Ballesteros (Spa), 1985 (Sandwich); L. Trevino (GB), 1986 (Tee); C. Norman (Aus), 1987 (Muirfield); G. Faldo (GB), 1988 (Royal Lytham and St Annes); S. Ballesteros (Spa), 1989 (Tee); M. Calvaneiro (US), 1990 (St Andrews); N. Faldo (GB), 1991 (Birkdale); I. Baker-Finch (Aus).

LOWEST SECOND-BESTS: 269: M. Hayes (Turnberry), 1977; G. Norman (Turnberry), 1980.</

Bright Generation to shine again

IN COMMON with most successful sporting teams, a top stable invariably boasts strength in depth.

That was most certainly the case again this year at Whatcombe where Paul Cole's two-year-olds have been in marvellous form.

At Sandown today, I will be looking to Bright Generation to underline the point yet again by winning the Milcavas Stakes in the care of Alan Munro.

Bright Generation enters the fray unbeaten after winning her only race over Chepstow's six furlongs by a length-looking six lengths.

Being by Rainbow Quest out of a mare who won up to a mile, she should not be remotely inconvenienced by the extra furlong of today's feature race. On the contrary, she should relish it.

One about whom there are no doubts on that score is East Liberty, who made a winning debut over course and distance 13 days ago.

On that occasion, East Liberty ran on strongly in the hands of Ray Cochrane, her jockey again this afternoon, to account for Where's The Dance and Actinella, who both took her on again this afternoon on 4lb betterments.

In theory, there should be little between East Liberty and Where's The Dance on the altered terms.

Michael Roberts has a good chance of consolidating his lead at the top of the table by landing a double on Invigilate (2.45) and Garden Of Heaven (3.55).

In the Norman Hill Handicap, I like none better than the John Dunlop-trained Top Royal, whose winning charge was eventually bought to a halt

at Brighton last time but only by the narrowest of margins in a photo-finish involving Pharamineux, who is a useful performer on his day. They were five lengths ahead of the third horse that day.

At Catterick, the distance of the Coborn Handicap is likely to extract the best out of



Cole trains Mandarin's mare Bright Generation

best position to judge whether or not Bright Generation can cope with Nunyandra now, the fact that they have not been frightened away speaks for itself. So, Bright Generation is my pick.

A significant form line involving Friendly Brave, who

was third to Prevente and Double Bass at Newmarket before finishing fourth behind Scottish Peak, Darediff and Bonar Bridge at Sandown,

now gives Double Bass the apparent edge over Bonar Bridge as far as the EBF Raynes Park Maiden Stakes is concerned.

Michael Roberts has a good

chance of consolidating his

lead at the top of the table by

landing a double on Invigilate

(2.45) and Garden Of Heaven

(3.55).

In the Norman Hill Handicap, I like none better than the John

Dunlop-trained Top Royal, whose winning charge

was eventually bought to a halt

at Brighton last time but only

by the narrowest of margins in

a photo-finish involving

Pharamineux, who is a useful

performer on his day. They

were five lengths ahead of the

third horse that day.

At Catterick, the distance of

the Coborn Handicap is likely

to extract the best out of

the best position to judge whether or not Bright Generation can

cope with Nunyandra now, the

fact that they have not been

frightened away speaks for

itself. So, Bright Generation is

my pick.

A significant form line

involving Friendly Brave, who

was third to Prevente and

Double Bass at Newmarket before

finishing fourth behind

Scottish Peak, Darediff and

Bonar Bridge at Sandown,

now gives Double Bass the

apparent edge over Bonar

Bridge as far as the EBF

Raynes Park Maiden Stakes is

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Benjamin excels with bat and ball

Ward leads a bold Kent riposte with a quickfire century

By JOHN WOODCOCK

GUILDFORD (second day of three): Kent, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 40 runs to avoid an innings defeat by Surrey

KENT were bowled out for 117 and made to follow on by Surrey yesterday. Bunting again they scored 145 for two in more or less identical conditions. Such is the glorious uncertainty of our summer game.

At teatime Surrey were riding the wave that had brought them three successive championship victories and taken them from the foot of the table into the top half.

The idea, though, that even by lunchtime today they would be among the leaders was rudely scotched by Trevor Ward, who launched Kent's second innings by making 102 in 95 balls out of an opening partnership of 117

with Benson, hitting four sixes and ten fours.

But the man we had to thank for first lifting the match out of a groove was a lesser known West Indian, Joey Benjamin, who came in in the morning, after 20 minutes of play, when Surrey were 242 for seven and looking anxious for a third batting point.

The match was getting badly behind the clock. In the next 30 overs Benjamin changed all that, first by making 42 in 42 balls, his highest score in first-class cricket, and then by returning much his best championship bowling figures.

He is 31, a native of St Kitts and a former employee of Staffordshire and Warwickshire, fact,

released him at the end of last season. Yesterday he aimed the same stroke at every ball, giving himself plenty of room

With Bicknell and Murphy also bowling a fuller, more productive length than Kent did on the first day, Kent were sent back in their first innings in 42.2 overs. I don't imagine Stewart would have had any hesitation in asking them to follow on. His bowlers must still have wanted to be at it, and the weather had an unpredictable look to it.

In the event it stayed fine, if often rather dark, and the second new ball seemed not to move about as the first had, and while Benson dug in at one end Ward let fly at the other. When, at 5.40, Stewart turned to spin for the first time, traffic passed the ground at its peril. In his first two overs, which cost 30 runs, Boiling was hit for three sixes.

That he removed both Ward and Benson after that, was yet another facet of a fascinating day, watched by an excellent and eager crowd.

Hick in superb form

GRAEME Hick scored his first double-century for over two years yesterday in a determined bid to save his England place for the Headingley Test (Gregory Wheeler writes).

He took on the Nottinghamshire bowlers almost single-handedly at Trent Bridge where Worcestershire, reeling at 52 for four after some incisive fast bowling from Chris Cairns, were led to safety by Hick at his masterful best. His unbeaten 213, made in 318 minutes, included four sixes and 24 fours and was his

second century of the first-class season. It enabled Curis to declare at 318 for six, 82 adrift.

Desmond Haynes performed a similar role for Middlesex against Northamptonshire at Uxbridge, scoring an unbroken 127, with a six and 17 fours, before Gatting declared 149 behind at 220 for five.

With Walsh on song, Gloucestershire again had much the better of things against Essex at Southend and can set a stiff target today.

Bowler makes highest score

By RICHARD STREETON

PORSCMOUTH (second day of three): Hampshire, with nine second-innings wickets in hand, are 236 runs behind Derbyshire

PETER Bowler made an unyielding 241 not out, the highest score of the season, as the Hampshire bowlers toiled virtually without reward yesterday on a slow, lifeless pitch.

Derbyshire lost only two further wickets, gaining a lead of 317 before they declared at 475 for four.

Hampshire, already knowing the match was beyond reach, had 23 overs to face before the close and immediately lost Terry, who was leg-before to Bishop. Gower and Middleton stayed to the end without much anxiety but Hampshire face a long haul today if they are to prevent Derbyshire winning.

Bowler's concentration never wavered during an innings.

which was efficient rather than spectacular. He batted just under eight hours as Derbyshire progressed with remorseless intent. They averaged between three and four runs an over with almost meteoric precision.

O'Gorman, Adams and Cork shared successive stands of 259, 93 and 110 with Bowler, who finished with 26 fours and faced 387 balls. It was the best score of his career, the second double hundred he has made and hoisted his average this season to 103.30. The previous best individual score this year was the 233 made by Ramprakash against Middlesex against Surrey.

The nearest Bowler came to an error was on Tuesday evening when he was 96 and a pull against Udal landed dangerously close to the midwicket fieldsmen. Otherwise, well-timed drives, pulls and cuts, on both the front and

back foot, kept his score mounting without any encouragement for the bowlers.

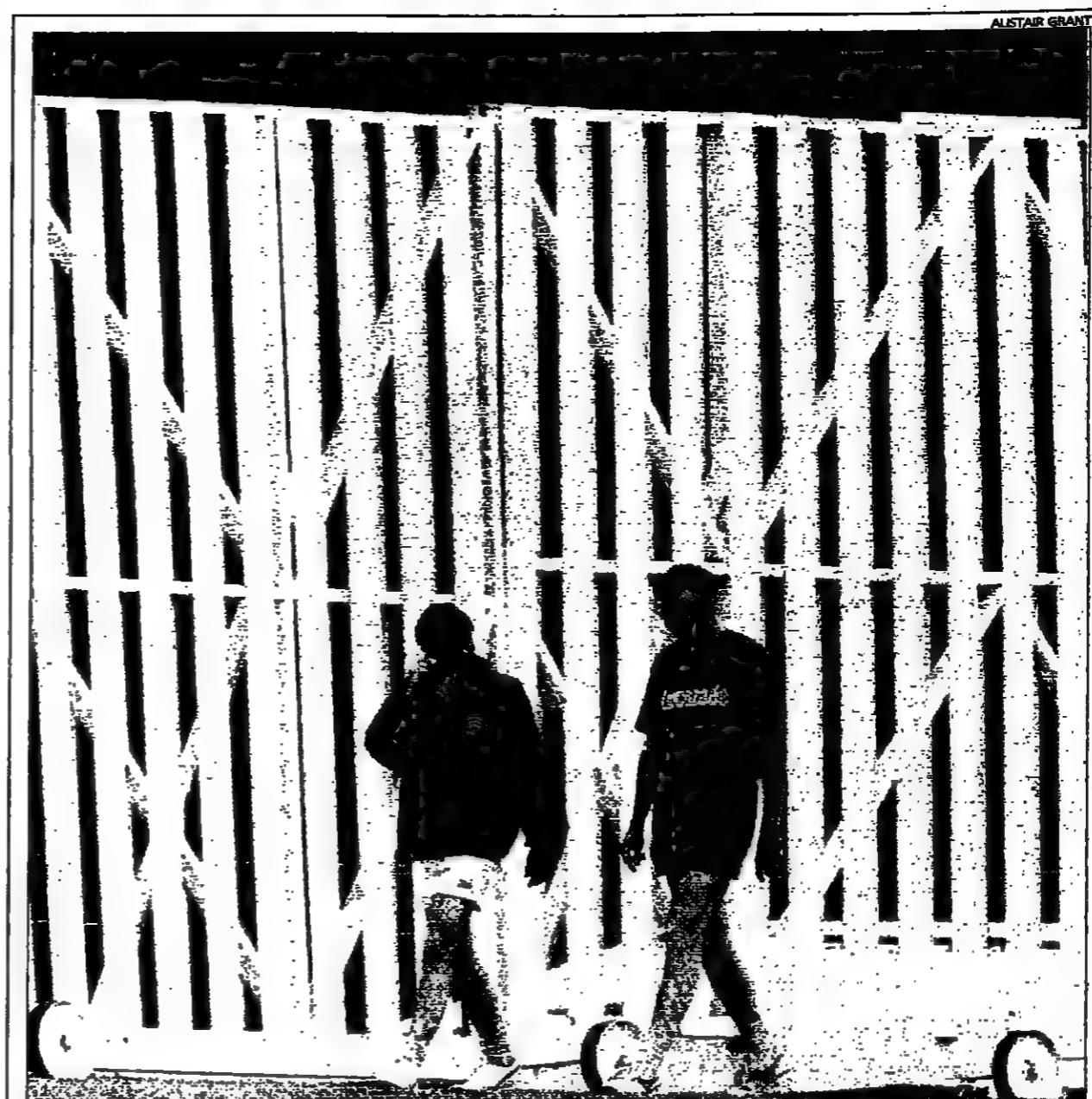
Any liveliness in the pitch had gone overnight. Even Marshall was defeated by the conditions.

O'Gorman, who had joined Bowler overnight at 13 for two, was unfortunate to miss his first century of the season by five runs. He and Bowler stayed together 72 overs in their third-wicket stand. Not for the first time over the years, Nicholas finally turned to his own occasional bowling and in his fifth over duly broke the stand.

O'Gorman had already twice failed to connect when, tempted to try and drive Nicholas's gentle medium pace, a further loose attempt saw him caught by Parks.

Adams was also content to play a sound, secondary role before he was also caught behind off Connor.

His absence was painfully felt at Old Trafford, a fortnight ago, when England fielded an attack scarcely worthy of the name. This time, no blame could be



Screen test: Tufnell, left, and Fraser share a tour of the boundary on the recovery trail at Uxbridge yesterday

Middlesex double act craving return to international stage

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

Middlesex, traditionally bulky suppliers to the England team, could boast a single player in the last Test side. Soon they could have five, but while Gatting and Emburey await parole and Ramprakash awaits his recall, the two bowlers whose selection would be automatic can only wait in frustration.

Six months ago, Phil Tufnell won a Test match in Christchurch with as fine a spell of spin bowling as the game has seen in years. The world was at his disposal feet — until May, when his appendix stopped grumbling and burst.

You have to go back a little further for Angus Fraser's halcyon days. A pelvic injury sustained in Australia two winters ago cost him 18 months of his career. At Uxbridge this week, there has been limited cause for encouragement.

Dexter would love to include Fraser in the side for next week's fourth Test at Headingley but he, like the bowler, will have to wait. The same goes for Tufnell, though in his case an extra fortnight could be sufficient. The final Test at the Oval, where last season he destroyed West Indies, is his realistic target.

The two are superficially poles apart: Tufnell a streetwise cockney with sharp suits, ubiquitous cigarette and a line in banter; Fraser the plodding, genial throwback. But looks can confuse. Tufnell seems the extrovert but is in many ways

attached to the selectors. As Ted Dexter, chairman of the England committee, said yesterday: "We are operating without our first-team bowlers. Any side would struggle to replace an entire attack."

With David Lawrence another long-term casualty and Phil DeFreitas submitting to a groin strain, England are desperate for the return of the Middlesex pair. At Uxbridge this week, there has been limited cause for encouragement.

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insular. Fraser, while less demonstrative, is actually more self-sufficient.

Both, however, are as prone to sulks and sparks of temper on the field as they have been recently to bouts of insecurity. In their recuperation, they have helped each other through the bleak times to the point where both are approaching a standard of bowling that satisfies them.

Fraser had briefly lost faith in the future. It had all taken so long and the specialist reports seemed so lacking in comfort that he took a job in the city and prepared to accept the worst. His comeback has been slow and his action was, at first, stiff and tentative. Now, at last, the confidence is returning and, with it, the flexibility that gave his bowling its surprising fizz. "I am still conscious of my body telling me its limits," he said. "But it is getting better every game."

Mike Gatting, Fraser's captain, is conservative, believing the England A team tour to Australia soon to be confirmed for this winter, will be an ideal springboard for Fraser's international

comeback — and, incidentally, his own.

Tufnell's problems are rhythm and stamina. "I need to bowl a lot and I have not had much cricket yet," he said. "And I still feel tired towards the end of a day in the field." The effects of his illness are apparent, his already-ready frame wasted by the surgery and the week afterwards in which he could not face calling.

"At least," he said, "the problem is now behind me. Hopefully, all the stomach niggles I had that were put down to nervous tension, or to fags or booze, have been cleared up by the operation. It is not something I would like to go through again and it has been a real setback after establishing myself in the side, but Gus keeps telling me I must be patient."

"If they asked me to play for England tomorrow, I'd say yes. Anyone would. But there must be a chance they won't use a spinner at Headingley. That leaves the Oval. I'll be ready by then, hopefully with wickets in the bank. If they pick me, I just hope I have some suicidal batsmen like last year."

Jones and Larkins thrash Pakistan

By PETER BALL

CHESTER-LE-STREET (second day of three): The Pakistanis, with eight second-innings wickets in hand, are 153 runs ahead of Durham

THE Pakistanis have not had many bad days on this tour. For a long time yesterday threatened to be one of them as Wayne Larkins and Dean Jones, centurions both, treated their Test attack with a disrespect bordering on contempt, but in their turn Aamer Sohail and Ramiz Raja gave them the base for a challenging declaration today.

But although the third session redressed the balance a little, Durham's batsmen took the individual honours. They did so even, without Ian Botham, who chipped a bone in his right thumb while fielding on Tuesday and will take no further part in the match. He will not play again until Sunday at the earliest, which with his fitness record so far this season, is likely to mean that he will not be considered for the fourth Test.

Nor, almost certainly, will Larkins, particularly at Headingley with the ball moving around. But as he took on Wasim and Waqar with relish yesterday, his recall did not look as bizarre as it might sound — or as it was when he was selected on the basis of a good innings in a NatWest match at a time when his first class average was 14. Now he is averaging 47, and, he says, "playing better than ever".

He had his moments of fortune, escaping an lbw appeal from Mushtaq when the only doubt seemed to be which stump it would hit, and an edge whistled between Moin Khan and first slip without either fielder moving, but most of his twenty fours and two sixes rocketed off the meat of the bat.

Wasim and Waqar made little impact and Aqib, after one blistering cover drive, limped away with a niggling knee and a bruised ego. It was the first time a county had taken first innings lead against the Pakistanis on this tour, and only two county batsmen had previously scored centuries against them.

Jones matched Larkins' stroke for stroke in a partnership of 162 in 28 overs. Jones hit Mushtaq out of the attack with three driven sixes, one straight hit landing in Ropewall Lane and bouncing into a garden across the road. Asif Mujtaba and Sohail were despatched for sixes in the same direction as he hit 13 fours and six sixes.

After that onslaught anything to follow was bound to suffer by comparison, and Sohail and Ramiz faced Brown and McEwan rather than Wasim and Waqar, but they continued the domination of bat over ball. When Sohail left looking unhappy, lbw when in sight of his own century, they had to put their side in control of their own destiny today.

Spinners tilt game Lancashire's way

By JACK BAILEY

SOUTHPORT (second day of three): Leicestershire, with three second-innings wickets in hand, are 118 runs ahead of Lancashire

IT WAS a bowlers' day at Trafalgar Road. Leicestershire seamers and Lancashire spinners benefited alike, so that 15 wickets fell for 296 runs and only the rival captains, Fairbrother and Briers, stayed long enough to put together an individual innings of more than 28. By taking six wickets while the last 49 runs were scored, Briers had Speak caught off balance.

The ball sprang towards short leg and it was a superb catch by the wicketkeeper, running and diving, that disposed of him.

It was to the seam brigade that Briers turned, and very well they served him. Millns replaced Potter, and within three overs ripped apart Lancashire's batting. He removed Whiniker with his loosener, and then Martin and Watkinson in successive overs.

It was also an absorbing day for cricket, watched by a good crowd, few of whom left before the last ball was bowled. Lancashire's only victory in the championship this season was gained at Leicestershire's expense way back in mid-May and they need all the comfort they can get in these parts.

They also know their cricket, and they will have appreciated the bowling of Fitter and Barnett on a dusty turner, just as they would have deplored the way Benjamin gave up his wicket, caught on the boundary, in the last over of the day.

Bowling from the Harrod Road end remained a pleasant and rewarding occupation, just as it was on Tuesday. But now there is something in it at both ends, as Fitter showed when Fairbrother remembered him.

By the time each side had

completed an innings, 18 of the 20 wickets had fallen to those cruising in from the direction of Harrod Road. Yesterday, Briers put his trust in spinners, despite Potter's early breakthrough when he had. Speak caught off bad and pad.

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Matches played 11th July 1992

LITTLEWOODS POOLS, LIVERPOOL

THIS WEEK 14 TOP WINNERS SCOOP

£174,870 IN A GREAT PAYOUT OF OVER

£3.7 Million

TREBLE CHANCE PAYING 6 DIVIDENDS

24 Pts £174,870.15

23 Pts £17,075.00

22 Pts £545.85

21 1/2 Pts £72.95

21 Pts £28.50

20 1/2 Pts £7.50

20 Pts £1.50

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FILMS p3
Look back:
this week's
best release is
25 years old.

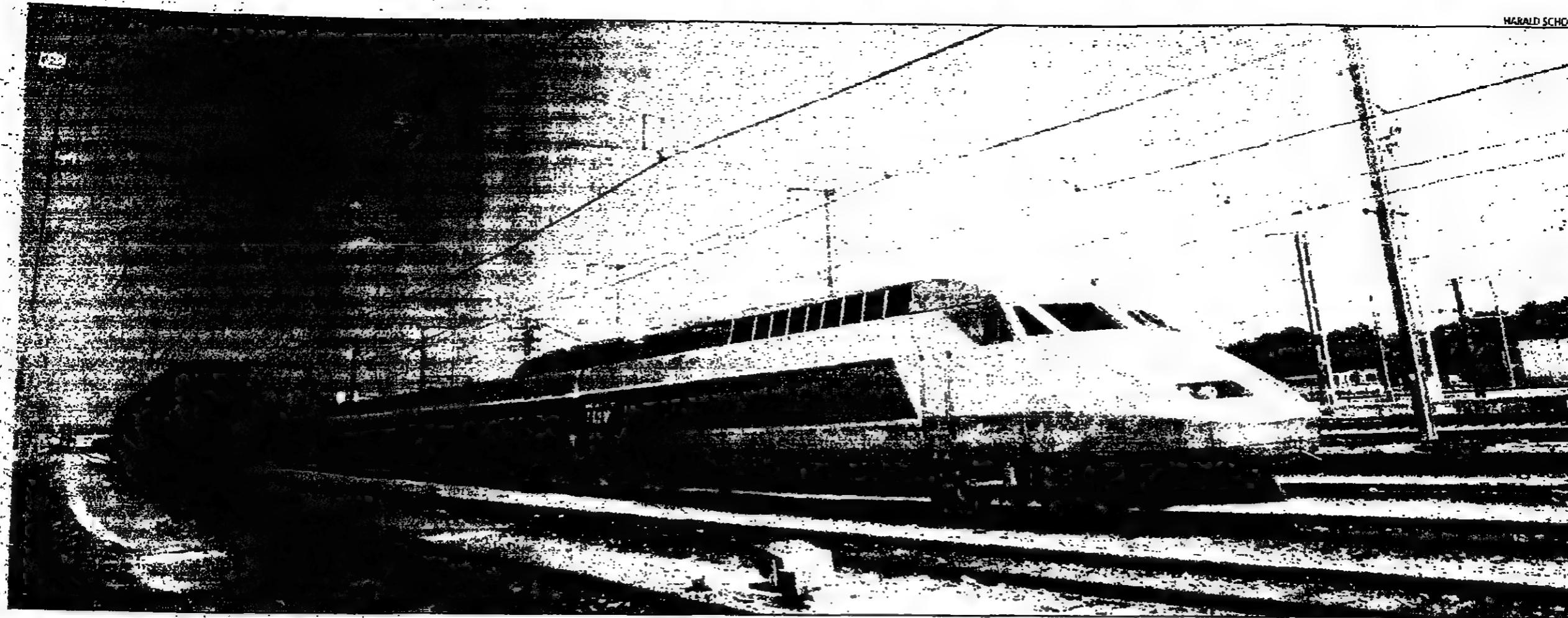
LIFE & TIMES

THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

APPOINTMENTS
The best of
managerial
jobs over 12
pages



Ticket to ride the rails of France



MY FEET were swollen, my teeth had grown fur and bits of my rucksack were trailing in the puddles. I had been away for only 100 hours but it does not take long to look like an Inter-Railer.

Seven years after my first Interrail adventure to celebrate the end of a level, I had returned for a whirlwind tour of France. If my last relationship with the continental always was a summer romance, it was to be a four-night stand.

When I arrived at Victoria station in London on a Thursday

for the 20.40

at train to Newhaven, the course appeared deserted apart from a few early commuters.

Then, rounding a corner, I bumped into them — the rightly coloured Inter-Railers, with their Day-Glo socks strapped like trainjackets on to their backs. Most were between 16 and 20 years old.

Some had been dropped off by their parents only minutes before, others had been on the European Monopoly board for a couple of weeks and were pros.

There were Belgians, Germans, French and Italians. They had all spent £180 for a month's unlimited train travel around Europe.

They were trying to see as many places as they could before going back to school, university or a new job. Every year 250,000 people, mostly young, become Inter-Railers.

For some at Victoria it was the first time they had travelled abroad on their own. Parents who would have worried if their offspring were not back from a party at midnight seemed quite willing to let them arrive late at night in sleepy train stations, stay in back street hotels and sleep on beaches.

Inter-railers are the ambulatory equivalent of McDonald's, testimony to the erosion of French culture

two hours like cows under a tree before a storm. Conversations became more intimate. By the time we got on the ferry to Dieppe, the groups of girls and boys had merged.

Arriving in Paris after a sleepless night on the boat train and confronted by the chic commutes at the Gare St Lazare, I began to understand the French disease for this annual invasion.

They expect their 20 million visitors to blend in, spend a little money and show respect for their cuisine, their culture and their style. Instead, the Inter-Railers trample over French self-esteem and landscape with little regard for etiquette and little intention to spend. They are the ambulatory equivalent of

Alice Thomson picks up her Inter-Rail pass to join the young and restless on the fast track through Europe

McDonald's — walking testimony to the erosion of French culture with their unwaxed legs, bottles of Coke, shorts and trainers.

Unable to bear the glares, I swung my backpack into the Forum des Halles, France's largest shopping mall. I knew I had to buy a dress, necessary camouflage in a country where couture is king. Scooping one up for a bargain £8, a sizeable chunk of my £10-a-day budget, I finished Paris — the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, the Pompidou Centre — and was ready to migrate south in the afternoon.

To get to the south you can take the TGV, the *train à grande vitesse*. Faster than the Express, faster even than the Rapide and more iconic than locomotive, it is a legend in its own right.

"Not possible," said the woman behind the glass in the Gare de Lyon. "You need a reservation and a seat number and you must pay a supplement. It is better for you to go on the slow train tonight." The TGV sat there sleek and gleaming. It was too tempting. I slipped into a corridor and waited. By the time the doors hissed shut I was sweating but at least they could not throw me out until Lyons, the first stop and another two hours away.

Brad wandered along the corridor. He had also managed to creep on to the TGV but had been forced by the guard to pay a supplement. Brad was an American fashion student who had gone into the air force "to broaden his horizons" and was now cruising through Europe with his apple-pie smile on less than \$20 a day.

Avoiding eye contact with assortments of guards, I spent the afternoon watching some of the less exciting parts of France pass by under darkening clouds as we travelled down the Rhône valley to Nice.

Napoleon may have started his Italian campaign from Nice and the Russian royal family may have graced its salons but today Nice is rough, dirty and far from welcoming.

The train along the Côte d'Azur

bumbled through Cannes, Juan-les-

Pins and Antibes, picking up

children not old enough to ride

mopeds and old people who have had their licences removed. I whiled the afternoon away jumping off at bougainvillea-shrouded stations for an ice cream, a swim or a drink. Back in Cannes, restless but exhausted, I took the night train to the Pyrenees. When the guard offered me a couchette for £5, I was pathetically grateful. An old man on the bunk below was kissing his wife goodnight. He explained that he was going to Lourdes to try to help her arthritis.

Beaming, he began to chant a catechism of miracles performed there. "Come to Lourdes, come to Lourdes," he said as the rhythm of the train began to lull me to sleep.

Crouching at the foot of the Pyrenees, Lourdes makes Euro Disney look like a trip to the Science Museum. Since 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous saw an apparition of the Virgin Mary in a

grotto while collecting firewood in 1858, Lourdes has blossomed into a spiritual extravaganza. The streets to La Grotte were jammed with souvenir stands selling Bernadette mirrors, pencil cases and cushions.

People go around smiling. They smile as they queued for three hours to see Bernadette's house, as they told shopkeepers to keep the change and when the waiters panted them on the head. The only people who were not smiling were the invalids shunted from place to place in convoys of wheelchairs. There may be something special about Lourdes but I had a train to catch and miles to go before I sleep.

The midday train to the port of Bayonne curled into the rain-

soaked south-west. The food in the capital of the Basque country sounded fantastic: Bayonne ham, Basque fish stew, gateau Basque, local herbal liqueurs.

Bayonne was drenched, and the locals had gone indoors leaving the rain to pour down the graffiti-ridden walls. Everything was closed, even the gothic Cathédrale Sainte-Marie. Shivering backpackers had congregated in the only open bar in town to consult their timetables and plan their escape.

Some, desperate for the sun, headed down to Lisbon, while the rest of us decided to sample the sea air of Biarritz ten minutes away. Pony-tailed surfers have given Biarritz a reputation as the California of Europe but the French middle class are putting up a fierce rear-guard action and au pairs and grannies mingle with the bronzed bodies on the promenade.

A profusion of legs, arms and surfboards scrambled on to the midnight train to Paris. There was no buffet, the lavatories were blocked and about 40 of us were locked into our carriage in case we tried to slide into a couchette compartment. For seven hours I was stuck with a Swiss, an Italian and a Californian arguing over lyrics to Doors songs and whether Bob Dylan really did play at the Whisky-A-Go-Go.

In Paris we swapped the obligatory (false) addresses and spilt on to the platform of the Gare d'Austerlitz. Running out of time, I enquired about the boat train to Cherbourg. "There is no train," said a guard disdainfully, and I discovered it was a public holiday.

At the station cafe James and Matt looked longingly at my pot of Marmite. While I contemplated my next move, they reminisced about Britain. I admitted I had been on the rails for only four days and was not yet feeling deprived.

"Come with us. We are catching the Orient Express to Vienna," Matt said. I could stop in Munich tomorrow, Salzburg the next day and be in Budapest by the weekend but, exhausted and with a rucksack of dirty washing, I decided to wait for the night ferry home.

● The Inter-Rail pass for travellers under 26, allowing one month of unlimited second-class travel in Europe, is £180 from British Rail International Rail Centre, Victoria Station, Tel: 071 834 2345. The Inter-Rail 26+ pass costs £280.

Getting paid to see the country, p4

TOMORROW
King of the Proms: the rise and rise of Andrew Davis

At last, some news about pensions you can look forward to.

Tomorrow, and again on Saturday, the FT publishes the Quarterly Review of Personal Finance

Summer 1992. It will cover unit and investment trusts, interest-only mortgages and Peps. Also, a special feature will look at the many types of personal pensions on offer and help you to decide which is the best for you.

Now, more than ever, it's required reading.

No FT...no comment.

How many months is it now that you and I have been sharing these intimate thoughts? Six? Seven? Whatever, I would have thought that by now it was pretty clear I am not the man to come to for answers.

Just before this column first appeared friends would stop me and say what was all this about me writing about sex in *The Times*? Did I mean, they'd ask, like an agony column sort of thing? And I'd say, we're talking national newspaper of record here not *My Guy*. I mean, I'd say, we're talking *Court and Social*. Is it likely, I'd say, that the very paper which is regularly used to announce that Her Majesty and chums will be popping along to watch the 3.30 at Haydock Park from close quarters prior to opening the new Tesco in Gidea Park would also take up valuable space telling 16-year-old Troubled of Todmorden that no, you can't get pregnant unless you actually meet the boy at the very least, and please find my useful pamphlet on same enclosed.

But this week I got my very first agony letter. What, a man from Streatham wanted to know, was the best way of breaking off an engagement? He'd been going out with the woman for four years, and they'd just bought a flat together

into which, as far as she understood things, they would be moving as soon as the carpets had been laid. If, appeared, though, that no amount of Berber twist would do anything to warm the cold feet which my agonised had suddenly acquired, and could I help, please?

I started to write a letter full of advice on honesty being the best policy, and was he absolutely sure? I mean, they'd ask, like an agony column sort of thing? And I'd say, we're talking national newspaper of record here not *My Guy*. I mean, I'd say, we're talking *Court and Social*. Is it likely, I'd say, that the very paper which is regularly used to announce that Her Majesty and chums will be popping along to watch the 3.30 at Haydock Park from close quarters prior to opening the new Tesco in Gidea Park would also take up valuable space telling 16-year-old Troubled of Todmorden that no, you can't get pregnant unless you actually meet the boy at the very least, and please find my useful pamphlet on same enclosed.

That said, as far as I can see there are three schools of agony. The first appears in the old-fashioned woman's magazines works on the pull-yourself-together-for-heaven's-sake principle and offers, in return for a

stamped and addressed envelope, to send out enlightening little pamphlets called things like *Safe Sex is Fun Sex and Rasher Which Are Probably Nothing To Worry About But If I Were You I'd Check With Your Doctor First Thing*.

Then there are the teenage magazines which have found a way of reconciling the fact that their feature pages are full of sexual innuendo [and, come to that,

extenso] and the knowledge that most of their readers would attract the immediate interest of the local juvenile social services department if they took as their example any section of the magazine other than the advice column. The standard answer here is that sex is absolutely the most wonderful thing in the whole world, more wonderful even than *My Little Pony*, but that perhaps you ought to wait a year or six before you find out just how wonderful it is for yourself.

Then there are the new-wave women's magazines, which are the same as the old-wave women's magazines but with articles about forms of sex that are theoretically only legal in some of the more liberal Dutch provinces. The standard agony answer here is to the effect that hey, all things are possible, desirable even, but that settling down with three kids and an evening class in holiday Spanish can be its own very special form of liberation too.

From all three schools, though, the advice to my man would be much the same as mine was about to be: be honest, think carefully, let your conscience be your guide and other such anodyne Jimmy Cricketisms. None of which helped me accept any part of the responsibility for the man either ditching

the woman or tying himself to her. I had always believed that the agony aunt's job was money for old rope. Who, after all, hasn't read in the agony columns the details of the innumerable ways in which people complicate their lives, and who hasn't known the easy solution to every complication: get a job, get a grip, get a life. I could do that.

What I couldn't do is take any responsibility for the advice. I couldn't bear to think of my man in Streatham sitting at home, alone save for a small, congealing pizza, wondering where the girl who would surely have made his life richer, fuller was now. The room would be silent except for the man's despairing, muffled mantra: "Bloody John Diamond... Bloody John Diamond..." Or perhaps in 20 years time he'd be sitting in his family home, the woman he tried to leave in 1992 sitting silently, resentfully on the other side of the room...

The letter I eventually wrote was a craven thing: I don't know, it said. Talk to her about it, or a friend. But I must admit the experience has me worried. I relish your letters, and take heed of them. But to those of you thinking of writing for solutions to their own problems I can offer only this advice: don't ask me, what do I know?

PRIVATE LIFE

John Diamond on

what his postbag

has brought in



Getting paid to see the country

A summer job is one of the cheapest ways to visit France. Clare Longrigg on some of the opportunities



PASSPORT TO
FRANCE

WORKING in a foreign country gives a privileged understanding of the place, albeit from the standpoint of the underprivileged. A summer job may lead to something more permanent, and many people find they forge links that will last for years. (The actor Gérard Depardieu's first job was sweeping the beaches in Cannes, and it has always held a special place in his affections.)

In Paris, it can seem as if most of the world is chasing the same jobs. However, Anglophone establishments in Paris have a particular cachet and usually need British employees. You might not get paid, but you will improve your social life.

Shakespeare & Co., the English bookshop in the Latin quarter, has been the haunt of literary exiles since James Joyce and still functions as a salon, with literary tea parties and poetry readings. George, the owner, allows students and travellers to stay in rooms above the shop in return for some non-specific work each day. Claire Judge wrote to him during her A-level year and was invited to "turn up". She was given a place to sleep with a view of Notre Dame, and worked about two hours a day — either in the shop, which stayed open until midnight, or engaged in less literary pursuits, such as scrubbing floors and cooking meals.

"It was an intriguing place. George is really eccentric; he is 78, with a white goatee beard, and he used to shout at us all the time, but it was all a bit of a joke. It was fairly basic, but it was a great atmosphere."

English language publications also take on unpaid workers. Louise Aston walked into the office of *Paris Passion*,

an arts and listings magazine, and instantly joined a clutch of unpaid general assistants. The job included picture research at the Beaubourg; she also sold the magazine on the street, for which she received FF10 per copy. Although the job mainly consisted of long, tedious hours proof-reading for no money, it had plenty of kudos: "People thought there was a big clique who hung out to-

'You have to know what you want out of the job. If you feel exploited, just move on'

gether: the *Passion Groupies*."

Teaching English is still a vital source of casual or part-time work. An English-teaching qualification is not strictly necessary — a university degree and a good suit will usually do — but it is advisable to take as many educational certificates with you as you can get your hands on.

Although the British Council in Paris gets cross with people who ask them for help with finding work, they do hold a list of language schools for potential students. There are also a large number of Berlitz schools in Paris. Berlitz offers a two-week training course, with a guaranteed job at the end. But it is not a very popular place with teachers.

"It is a special method, a formula, which is fantastically boring," says Susie Poynder, who applied to Berlitz after university. "You have to learn this particular way of talking. It is also one of the worst

paying language schools in Paris — about FF127 a lesson three years ago." Berlitz say that current wage rates depend on seniority and the number of lessons given.

In Paris the expatriate network is an excellent source of work contacts for freelance teachers. Ms Poynder arranged private tutorials by placing advertisements in *Paris Passion*, on the British Council noticeboard and at the American Church. She began teaching classes of three or four at a language school, and collected a handful of private students. "With one student, a 40-year-old businesswoman, I used to have wonderful conversations on Sunday mornings for FF100 an hour. I also had a 15-year-old who was really useless. Her parents wanted her to do well but she couldn't grasp the basics. That was pretty depressing, but it was FF120 an hour."

Specialist summer schools frequently take on helpers and administrators. Clare Thomas, a music student at Bath University, worked as a general assistant at a summer school for musicians in the Dordogne. The musicians, students from the Royal Northern College and the Paris Conservatoire, took classes from international performers.

Ms Thomas made their breakfast, sorted out arguments in the dorm and drove them down to the beach. For this she received all her expenses, including travel, and generous pocket money. "I took my flute with me but I felt too intimidated to play. It was just great to be working with musicians. The whole place was ringing with music."

The English au pair is still much in demand with French families, and many are required to teach the children English. As many former au pairs will tell you, the job is a

minefield of guilt-ridden mothers, lecherous fathers and spoilt children. The rest will tell you that they adored the children, learnt fluent French and are going on holiday with their former employers on the Côte d'Azur.

There are several agencies in the UK and France which work together to line up English girls with French families. Most take a booking fee of about £40, but only when the job has been accepted. Emma Thorne picked out the Albany Agency from the classified pages of *The Lady* and a week later flew to Nice

minefield of guilt-ridden mothers, lecherous fathers and spoilt children. The rest will tell you that they adored the children, learnt fluent French and are going on holiday with their former employers on the Côte d'Azur.

With a six-month contract to look after two children.

"It was a politician's family, they were extremely rich and had a big house in the hills above Nice. The children were ten and 12, they were a bit spoilt and we had some heated arguments. The family always spoke French to me, and I went to school with all the other au pairs, so now I'm pretty fluent. They paid me FF1,500 a month, and the mother used buy things for me all the time. I still miss it."

The tourist industry in France provides a good deal of employment in hotels and restaurants, although the French tend to like their waiters male and French. In his year off, Richard Pitwood went to Paris looking for a job in a bank and ended up as a plongeur, washing up in restaurants. He put his name down with a couple of agencies and was up to the elbows in greasy water that evening.

He says: "The hours were from about 6pm to two or three in the morning, and there were no breaks. The boss shouted at us all the time, but the other kitchen staff were friendly — it would have been too depressing if I hadn't been able to speak to them in French. We got paid in cash the same evening, not a bad wage compared to England, it was the national minimum at the time (salaire minimum interprofessionnel de croissance or SMIC, currently FF4,608 a month). But Paris is a 24-hour city, and I used to get straight out after work and spend it."

Anyone looking for casual kitchen work will have to compete with North Africans, who are generally prepared to work harder for less money. Agencies for casual work can be found in the telephone directory under "Travail Intérimaire", but it is worth knocking on restaurant doors. A number of British tour operators employ waiters to look after clients on camping and caravan sites in France. This job requires relentless cheerfulness, sometimes in the

face of moaning and belligerent holiday-makers, but according to one courier from Keycamp Holidays, "You're on call 24 hours a day, but it doesn't feel like you're working all the time, because of the holiday atmosphere."

Caroline Morrison worked as a courier for a British tour group, taking coachloads of 40 people across France. She would have to navigate through towns in which neither she nor the driver had ever set foot, improving histories of local monuments. Some of the hotels were "dirty and foul" and the clients could

asking one of the students already peddling wares on the beach, and although compensation on each item is pitiful, the sun-tan may make up for it in the end.

With a little more ambition, you can find yourself on a yacht in the Mediterranean. In the bigger harbours, Antibes or Cannes, aspiring sailors go from private yachts to pleasure cruisers asking for work, and may be hired to prepare the boat for the charter season, or as a deckhand, earning more than FF1,000 a week, plus tips.

For the less materialistic

garden. The camps, for 18 to 30-year-olds, are characterised by remote rural settings and spartan living conditions, often camping. For a registration fee of £50, plus payment of all their own expenses, volunteers are expected to work up to 35 hours a week. Jeunesse et Reconstruction provides the food, but volunteers must cook it.

There are several peace camps and centres of alternative technology which take on volunteers all year round. Roberta Wedge spent a month visiting different centres in France and chose Le Cun de Lazarac, a centre for peace studies and conscientious objectors which also runs workshops including vegetarian cooking and alternative energy. In return for board and lodgings in an old vicarage, Ms Wedge worked as an archivist in the library.

These centres tend to be in deeply rural, beautiful settings; the main thing they offer volunteers is an education in green living. Addresses can be found in *The Green Guide to France. Work Your Way Around the World* also contains the addresses of organic farms which take on volunteers in summer. Dustie Hickey, who worked her way across France and developed a sound philosophy for casual work, recommends an open mind and a degree of mobility. "You have to know what you want out of the job," she says. "If you feel you are being exploited, just move on."

● Barry Turner's "When in France" and Peter Barnard's "At Home" column return next week.

TOMORROW

"French music has retreated to folk roots. And we are not talking about accordions," Clare Longrigg on the wealth of live music on offer in France



All smiles: some jobs offer remuneration in the form of bed and board, getting to know the locals and the chance to hone one's barbecuing skills

FROM BURGUNDY TO PROVENCE

AN EIGHT DAY RIVER JOURNEY ABOARD THE DELUXE 'PRINCESS OF PROVENCE'

An opportunity has arisen to experience one of the world's most elegant and comfortable river vessels on a voyage through France from the glorious countryside of Burgundy to Provence at a cost reduced to half the normal price.

This special offer for readers is unique and unrepeatable and allows one to travel through the beautiful scenery of the Saône and Rhône aboard the newly launched MS Princess of Provence far away from the busy roads and motorways. In the space of a week, visits will be made to Lyon, the vineyards of Burgundy, the attractive city of Macon, Trevoux in the heart of Beaujolais, beautiful Tournon, the wild and untouched Ardèche region, historic Viviers and the scenic and historic wonders of Provence including Arles and Avignon. Such a journey by any other means would be tiring and inconvenient. By contrast what could be more relaxing than sailing along two of the loveliest rivers in Europe, visiting a new region each day and returning to the cool air-conditioned comfort of a deluxe river vessel for good food and company as we sail on to the next river port. The beauty of this part of France is undeniable as are the large numbers of visitors. Travelling by river allows the journey to be an enjoyable and traffic-jam free experience and using the Princess of Provence as our base for the week avoids the usual hassles of packing and unpacking as one moves along this itinerary.

The Princess of Provence is one of the finest river vessels in the world accommodating up to 140 passengers in outside, well-appointed cabins with shower and WC; the top deck cabins have french windows whilst the lower deck offers picture windows. Built in Yorkshire, she is operated by Peter Deilmann Cruises with a German/French crew. The single-sitting restaurant offers excellent cuisine, there is also a lounge, hairdressers, clinic, shop, observation and sun deck with awning, good sized heated pool and comfortable loungers and deckchairs. The ship's orchestra performs in the evenings and on a number of nights the ship will be moored until late allowing the opportunity of a pleasant stroll after dinner.



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EC nationals may stay in France for up to three months without a visa. After this they

must obtain a *carte de séjour*, residence permit, from the local prefecture. You will need to show that you have money to support yourself, and official proof of an address. In Paris, contact: Direction Départementale du Travail et de la Main-d'œuvre Étrangère, 80 rue de la Croix-Nivert (43 31 10 03).

Teaching English Abroad by Susan Griffith (Vacation Work, 071-580 6482)

The French Embassy, 23 Cromwell Road, London SW1 2EL (071-581 2608) publishing a booklet, *Teaching Post in France*.

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Last days of the Little Father

On the eve of the Romanov reburial, Orlando Figes examines a new book on Nicholas II and warns against Russia's tsarist cult

Tomorrow will be the 74th anniversary of the murder of Tsar Nicholas II by the Bolsheviks. A special commission was set up last year to authenticate his bones and, now that this has been done, they will no doubt be laid to rest in St Petersburg with due pomp and ceremony. There is even some talk of canonising Russia's last tsar. The cult of Nicholas II — and of everything Romanov — is sweeping the country.

The collapse of communism has left a deep ideological void in Russia. People are flocking to the churches, to supernaturalist showmen and, above all, to the memory of the tsars in the hope of finding salvation. This is a country accustomed to seeing its leaders as gods, and the hunger for belief is a good deal stronger than the power of historical memory. Hatred of the communists and a wilful ignorance of the tsarist reality before 1917 — these are the foundations of the Romanov cult. The logic is simple: since everything about the communists was evil, so everything about the tsars must be good. Russia is a nation of extremes.

The Last Tsar is a typical example of the royalty books industry that has sprung up in Russia to service this cult. It is long on sentiment and short on facts. Radzinsky is a playwright and he allows himself considerable artistic licence. The colour of the book's jacket is purple, and so is its prose.

The historical narrative is often broken by stories of the author's own researches in the Soviet archives. There, by his own admission, he was overawed by the "mystical" experience of reading the tsar's handwriting. There are passages of invented dialogue between historical figures and long unattributed quotations. Much of the evidence on the political and social background of the times is

THE LAST TSAR
The Life and Death
of Nicholas II
By Edward Radzinsky
Hodder & Stoughton, £20

drawn, quite amazingly, from interviews with an old theatrical friend of Radzinsky's, an actress by the name of Vera Yureneva, whose superficial reminiscences are cited at length. The resulting portrait of tsarist society is both impressionistic and nostalgic — which is probably what the author intended.

Nicholas is presented in these pages as an innocent victim of history. Two-thirds of the book is devoted to the last 18 months of his life, when he was a prisoner of the Bolsheviks in Siberia, although nothing happens in this time — at least not until the brutal murder of the imperial family at the height of the civil war in July 1918.

Radzinsky's claims to originality

are strongest here. In 1989 he caused a minor sensation in Russia, when he published the testimonies of some of the tsar's Bolshevik executioners in Ogranek, the flagship journal of *glasnost*. He presents them again here, along with a running account of the readers' letters he received and their highly speculative revelations about the unknown details of the murder. All this is useful. Lenin's direct complicity in the atrocity now looks more certain than ever. But it does not radically alter what we know, and nor does it really strengthen the theory — which Radzinsky seems ready to credit nonetheless — that two of the tsar's children might have survived.

The rest of the book is padding — most of it consisting of extended citations from the diaries of the tsar with fawning commentaries by

Radzinsky. This was a major part of the book's appeal in Russia, where the diaries had long been neglected. But western historians have never made much use of the diaries since their publication back in the 1920s. They were written in the conventional manner for an aristocrat during the Edwardian era (which is just what Nicholas was) — a tease and monotonous listing of the day's little happenings without expression of the author's opinions or his personal feelings. A meteorologist could learn more from Nicholas's diary than a historian.

At the height of the 1905 revolution, which nearly cost him his throne, Nicholas noted: "April 14: Took a walk in a thin shirt and took up paddling again. Had tea on the balcony." And in February 1917, only days before his abdication, another typical entry: "Read the Life of Julius Caesar and in the evening played dominoes."

By citing these diaries at length Radzinsky reinforces the mythical image of the tsar as a victim of history. How could he be guilty, or deserving of his monstrous fate, when so much of his time was taken up by such innocent and civilised activities? Yet this is to neglect the active role which Nicholas played in shaping the reactionary policies of his government, in weakening the executive institutions of the monarchy, and in authorising the murder of thousands of demonstrating workers and peasants — all of which might help to explain his own bloody end. But that is not Radzinsky's purpose, nor that of the cult of Nicholas II. The desire for an innocent martyr, a symbol of the nation's suffering under communist rule, is stronger than history itself.

Dr Orlando Figes is the author of *Peasant Russia, Civil War: The Volga Countryside in Revolution, 1917-21* (OUP).



This Bolshevik poster of 1918 caricatures a priest, Tsar Nicholas II and a kulak, implicitly justifying the liquidation of all three.

Snubbing the good German

Patricia Meehan's book is a new version of the "Goebbels Man" thesis. The original version blamed the drift to war in 1939 on the failure of Chamberlain and his weak-kneed cronies to stand up to Hitler while it was still possible to do so. When Churchill called the second world war "the unnecessary war" he meant that Hitler should have been stopped earlier by military deterrence.

Now Patricia Meehan has extended his phrase to cover the parallel failure of Britain to recognise and assist the anti-Nazi opposition within Germany, which, it is argued, only needed outside encouragement to overthrow Hitler and avert war that way. In particular she gives credence to the idea that there was a fully planned army putsch, ready to move against Hitler at the time of the Czech crisis in September 1938, if only Chamberlain had not cut the ground from under the conspirators by flying out to concede all the Führer's demands at Munich.

The Unnecessary War belongs to the counter-factual school of history, which seeks to suggest that if only ABC had happened then XYZ need not have happened and everything would have turned out differently. Yet unquestionably the author presents a powerful case, soundly rooted in the Foreign Office files.

It has long been known that there was more contact between the Foreign Office and representatives of the German opposition before 1939 than the British subsequently wished to admit. But Patricia Meehan is the first to document these contacts in detail and to lay bare from official sources the determination of the British establishment to accord the conspirators no recognition or encouragement. She draws a devastating picture of complicity, prejudice and willful refusal to listen to accurate warnings of Hitler's intentions because they came from undercover sources.

Simply at the level of political intelligence, it is a record of extraordinary incompetence; but it is the moral blindness which really exercises her. She writes well, so that it is easy to be carried along by her passionate belief that Britain was guilty of a shameful betrayal of a brave minority of decent, highly placed Germans who risked and — most of them — lost their lives in a vain effort to save their country from disaster.

The most shocking document in the whole catalogue is a memo by the historian Sir John Wheeler-Bennet, then in the Foreign Office's Political Intelligence Department, frankly welcoming not only the failure of the 1944 bomb plot against Hitler, but also the reprisals against the plotters, which conveniently removed from the scene "numerous individuals who might have caused us difficulty". Wheeler-Bennet wrote:

The Gestapo and the SS have

John Campbell
THE UNNECESSARY WAR
By Patricia Meehan
Sinclair-Stevenson, £18.99

Dunedin, upside down Edinburgh, is about life lived in a disappointing, topsy-turvy world. It starts and ends in early 20th-century New Zealand. The Mackenzies, fresh from Scotland, play out a costume drama in the colonial wild. The novel's chronological narrative swerves out of sync and suddenly here are grandsons and granddaughters in the middle of life and in 1989 London. The exact location is hammered in early on — southeast London, Forest Hill, a name with romantic, hilly pretensions, like Dunedin. With 80 years separating the two they remain sweeter in name than nature.

This is queasy stuff. Yet Meehan does not ask herself why the British declined to take the German opposition seriously, still less whether they might have been right. Was the Foreign Office simply being stolid, or was it in fact exercising a political judgement which — whether right or wrong — was reasonable at the time?

The common-sense British line was that if the opposition to Hitler was serious it should prove itself by overthrowing him. Then London would deal with the new regime: until then it was bound to deal with the existing government which, however abominable, was still the legitimate government. It is easy today, with the experience of 40 years of the denazified West Germany, to believe that the opposition to Hitler was made up of nice democratic Germans, the precursors of Willy Brandt and Helmut Kohl. But in the 1930s few British policy-makers had any reason to believe in the notion of a "good" German.

The Enigma was like an elaborate fruit machine. The sender tapped his message onto the keyboard while a number of rotors inside spun round, scrambling it. The receiver played back the random sequence, whereupon his machine disclosed the hidden signal.

But he had first to know the right setting for the rotors. German overconfidence in the system is explained by the staggering number of these "keys". With more than 10 quadrillion settings to choose from, it could have taken a thousand codebreakers up to 1,800,000,000 years to transcribe one intercept. It follows that cryptoanalysis at Bletchley Park must share the credit for conquering Enigma with the brave, enterprising servicemen who seized keying-in codes from captured German vessels.

Kahn's style is sometimes journalistic. But this has the advantage of making his thesis extremely readable, despite much technical detail. He is also careful not to overstate his product. He dismisses claims that the Ultra operation (Britain's codename for its Enigma intercepts) "won the war".

Nonetheless, it helped win the Battle of the Atlantic, by disclosing the positions of lurking U-boats. Without it, D-Day might have been set back by three months, he says, and the war could have dragged on for two more years.

Few would appreciate this more than David Wild, chaplain (and subsequently housemaster) at Eton, who was captured by the Germans near Dunkirk and spent four years as a prisoner of war in Poland.

South London blues

Alison Roberts

today's New Zealand end up in a rather surreal detention centre for down-and-outs. And we slowly realise that Jay Pascal's new Kiwi blood is actually as old as the sordid affair which besmirched the name of Jack Mackenzie, the minister thrown out of the sunny New World because of a pretty washerwoman. People and places are linked by the strands of DNA which criss-cross time and space. In the end we see that the botanical specimen, *Mackenzia officinalis*, which Jack Mackenzie yearned after in 1910, but never found, is rather a strain of selfishness found in his granddaughter Olive, mixed with a rare compassion which forms part of grandson William's genetic make-up.

It is a novel with tastes and smells. The forced cruelty of Olive Mackenzie, the lonely descendant of lascivious Jack, is salt and sour. Her brother William's haunting memory of a schoolgirl's death is acid and smells of the oily railway

line upon which she fell. Terry Turner, the thwarted writer, whoozy from whisky and alcoholic lunches, lurches from stupor to stupor.

Puffed as comedy, the moments of black humour — "My mother's definition of a wild mushroom would be a Chesswood Creamed Button which slipped off the toast" — are outweighed by a poignant sadness which lurks in neglected gardens and the flight of birds. Sparks of human potential are glimpsed only to die out, killed by

the force of a memory, by ingrained selfishness or by the city itself.

The book is woven from threads of narrative without much plot. Clever echoes resound: from tribal head snachers to Forest Hill baby-snatchers, from 19th-century misogyny to Turner's callous treatment of women, and from the menace of an imminent European war to the less concrete threat of violence which hangs over modern London streets. *Dunedin* is a good, thoughtful book, full of the trivial emotions which underlie any great costume drama passions and which are, in the end, the more important stuff of life.

Nigel Williams's London is altogether funnier, but equally upside down. Sometimes wacky, sometimes hysterical, more often provoking horse-laugh than titters. *They Came from SW19* follows superbly in the suburban steps of *The Wimbledon Poisoner*.

Most of this is slapstick stuff about aliens with buckets on their heads and mad members of the First Church of Christ the Spiritualist, South Wimbledon, who believe in life after death and say things like "Is there a plentiful sufficiency of baps" and "Wave thine extremities and be joyful". But the novel benefits from the rather more serious undertow which becomes fully visible only on the last page of the book, when the reversal of values prevalent throughout takes on a nastier hue.

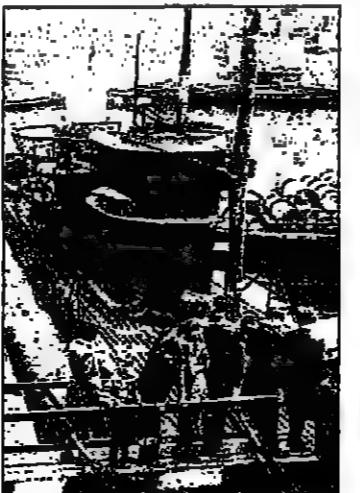
Simon Briton, the 14-year-old narrator, feels abandoned by his father when Norman Briton suddenly dies. Simon is beaten up by the mad church leader, Quigley of the enormous extremity, and things are complicated by the disappearance of Mr Marr, Wimbledon's resident ufologist, widely believed to have been taken by little green men, and by the appearance of Simon's dad, whose ghostly entrance shocks and fools.

When adults are afflicted by a childish gullibility, children may turn on an adult cynicism: the result is an unhappy state of affairs. This is a book for the seriously light-hearted, but not for the superstitious.

Small mercies of war

Henry Stankope

SEIZING THE ENIGMA
By David Kahn
Souvenir Press, £15.99
PRISONER OF HOPE
By David Wild
Book Guild, £12.95
ECHOES OF WAR
By Robert Giddings
Bloomsbury, £15.99
WARRIORS' WORDS
By Peter G. Tsouras
Cassell/Arms and Armour, £19.99



May 1945: crowds inspect a U-boat at Westminster

Prisoner of Hope is the tale of his captivity.

Conditions there sound like a marginal improvement on Eton. He describes his daily routine in 1942 as starting with morning tea, brought by his batman. After breakfast (porridge and two rounds of bread) he left the batman to clean his room while he went for a walk, played the piano or sunbathed. There were hospital visits after lunch (German soup and potatoes) and, in the evening, a concert, lecture, or a rubber of bridge. Later he was allowed out, with a German

guard, to visit work parties on local farms. Meanwhile, there were also food parcels from, among others, Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, who had heard of a fellow Old Etonian in need.

But Wild also writes with endearing candour of his own shyness and self-doubt, and his mental agony on entering a barrack room full of soldiers. The result is an honest account of life in Stalag XXA: no tunnels, escape committees or wooden horses — just hunger, separation and uncertainty.

Robert Giddings's anthology of war literature starts with an excerpt from the *Mahabharata*, which describes tribal struggles on the Ganges plains between 2000 and 600 BC, and ends with newspaper reports of last year's Gulf war.

One of its merits is the imaginative selection, which stretches far beyond Homer, Churchill, Wilfred Owen and Seamus Heaney. There are also General Sir Garnet Wolseley on the Zulu Wars, Lloyd George's memoirs and a range of humbler poets and peasants, all punctuated by Giddings's thoughtful commentary.

"It is a good thing," wrote Churchill in *My Early Life*, "for an uneducated man to read books of quotations." In that sense *Warriors' Words* might serve as a precious textbook. It consists of quotes by more than 250 soldiers, statesmen and military philosophers on the conduct of war and its consequences. They reflect nearly 4000 years, from Pharaoh Sesostris in 1871 BC to General "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf only last year. These are organised into 350 subject headings and accompanied by a biographical index.

Schwarzkopf is quoted as many as seven times. In the war of words, however, he is easily defeated by Mao (25), Montgomery (53) and Clausewitz (99). As for Wellington (36), he is routed by the more loquacious Bonaparte, who fires a barrage of nearly 150.

Henry Stankope is a former defence correspondent of The Times.

EUROPE 1937

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THE PITY

THE TREACHERY

THE PASSION

THE SILENCE BEFORE

THE STORM

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London based

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While candidate's real motivation will be the challenge and importance of the role, the Society also offers reasonable remuneration including pension and car.

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- Responsible for maintaining financial control and ensuring value for money.
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UK's leading centres for medical training and research) and other statutory bodies.

REQUIREMENTS

- Demonstrable career achievement at senior level as a manager of change in the public or private sectors; ideally you will have operated at Director level with financial accountability.
- Degree level education.
- Experience of handling wide scale consultation and/or negotiations.
- Experience of handling the media and of acting as a spokesperson.

The appointment will be on a three year rolling contract and is eligible for performance-related pay. Please send your CV quoting reference 9035/B and including current salary details to Ms Jane Pollard, K/F Associates, 12 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DF. The closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 3rd August 1992.

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- Contribute to development of brand promotional and marketing tools.
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REQUIREMENTS

- Graduate, at least 30 years old.
- Fluency in Spanish and German respectively for the two roles; other European languages useful, particularly French.
- Classically trained, sales-driven marketer. Proven track record in drinks or other premium consumer goods.
- Hands-on management style and entrepreneurial flair.

Please apply in writing with a full CV and salary details quoting reference 9048/A to: Susannah Truswell, K/F Associates, Pepys House, 12 Buckingham Street, London WC2N 6DF.

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To drive these programmes successfully, a number of Project Managers are now required. Your role will be to take ownership of specific projects aimed at developing both the commercial and technological positioning of the company. The projects will impact on all the functional areas within the business, and will be resourced across the company.

You will need experience of managing large scale projects to rigorous deadlines and to pre-set budgets. You must have demonstrated your skill in co-ordinating multi-disciplined teams and be

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In order to operate in this non-hierarchical environment you will require considerable communication and planning skills and a knowledge of computerised project management tools would be an advantage.

Experience specifically within the telecommunications or other high technology industries is not essential. Your project management experience will probably have been gained within a blue chip company or a leading management consultancy and you will have a clear record of achievement.

To have gained the required level of experience it is unlikely that you will be less than 30 years of age and you will probably be in possession of at least a first degree.

If you believe you have the skill and experience to succeed in this demanding role, then please contact Jonathan Wright or Bruce Wedderburn at the address below quoting reference no. JW808.



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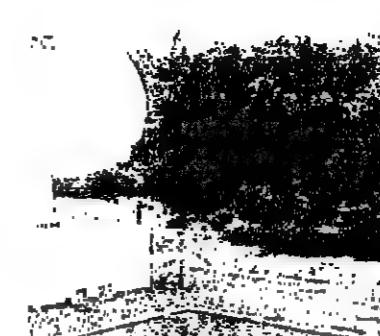
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Change Management

For a regional business within a long established and profitable UK construction Group with a solid reputation in both civils and building work, and a clear view of where they want to be in the future.

The need is for someone with strong leadership skills who can strengthen, weld and motivate the management team, bring strategic direction to the business, identify opportunities and exploit the potential in their people and the market.

Candidates will be experienced civils/building executives, probably qualified, but certainly with a successful record of control and profit responsibility with also the ability to contribute at UK management board level.

Turnover is around £25m per annum: location is in the South West Midlands: remuneration indicator is £45,000, but need not be a barrier to application.

Please apply to Paul Blake with career and salary details, quoting ref no 0601 at Crescent Management Selection, The Crescent, King Street, Leicester LE1 6RX.

CRESCENT
Management
Selection

whitehead selection

Sales and Marketing Director

East Midlands

To £40,000, bonus, car, benefits

This well established c. 200 employee private manufacturing company is a supplier to many 'blue chip' food producers, most of whom are household names.

As part of their exciting development plans they now have an opportunity for a leading professional to be responsible to the Managing Director for the company's complete sales and marketing function.

A graduate aged 28-42, you must have a sound understanding of working in partnership with the marketing, technical and new product development functions of major food manufacturers, with a proven record of success in identifying client needs, matching them to the company's capabilities and winning sales. You are also likely to come from within a food ingredients, packaging, packaging design or other innovative organisation servicing the food industry. Leadership, motivational skills, presence, drive, and general commercial acumen are all prerequisites.

The competitive package includes a performance related bonus scheme, pension and relocation assistance where necessary.

Please write enclosing CV, quoting reference 3551, to James Thorne, Whitehead Selection Ltd, 43 Welbeck Street, London W1M 7HF.

A Whitehead Mann Group PLC Company.

whitehead selection

BBC ENTERPRISES**BBC Enterprises International**

BBC Enterprises International is a new Division which will combine the present activities of the Programme Sales and Co-productions Divisions and will be responsible for all Enterprises multimedia activities world-wide. We are now looking for two senior executives who will play a key role in leading Enterprises International's business, and who will form part of the core senior management team reporting directly to Director, Enterprises International.

Marketing & Business Development Director

Your key function will be to determine investment marketing and commercial development strategies for BBC programming. You will be responsible for determining and carrying out the most effective marketing and funding strategies for all key programming requiring external pre-production finance, whether through co-productions, pre-sales or Enterprises investments, across the full range of BBC output. You will lead a strong team of Enterprises Business Development and Marketing Executives working with individual programme departments; control common and consistent policies for all negotiations with third party broadcasters and distributors, and ensure that the necessary rights clearances, contracts, and delivery of materials are completed to plan for invested or co-produced programmes. As a key member of the Enterprises International Investment Committee you will be responsible for recommending all programme investments and monitoring returns against these. You will develop new, and strengthen existing, relationships with UK and International Independents, and with international broadcasters and multimedia companies.

You will have a fully developed knowledge of marketing and business affairs in the international television production and distribution marketplace, with substantial negotiating skills and a thorough understanding of the common structures for co-productions, pre-sales and territory, revenue and rights splits. You will have considerable experience of motivating and of running a strong management team, and the ability to work closely with both television production and commercial personnel.

Salary negotiable £40,000 - £55,000 p.a. (Ref. 10473-SM)

European Director

As European Director your key role will be to develop and maximise Enterprises total business in Europe. One of your first responsibilities will be to investigate the potential of establishing further Enterprises multimedia offices in European countries, following on from our French office; and where necessary, setting up management and control systems for these offices. You will be responsible for coordinating, all marketing and sales plans for Enterprises products in Europe; for developing, motivating and managing the European Sales team and for ensuring appropriate support systems are in place to service our European clients. You will seek out and build relationships between BBC production departments and European broadcasters and distributors and seek to create partnerships with major European media companies.

You will have an extensive knowledge of the European television and multimedia marketplace and the key players in it; considerable experience of television distribution and co-production, excellent negotiating skills and the ability to communicate strategy effectively to both production and commercial personnel.

We are looking for someone able to speak at least one European language other than English, preferably more; the post is not restricted to British citizens but the postholder must possess or be able to obtain a work permit and be able to work in the UK.

Salary negotiable £40,000 - £55,000 p.a. (Ref. 10474-SM)

Based West London.

For an application form contact (quote appropriate ref) Carolyn Hodson, BBC Enterprises, Room A3078,

80 Wood Lane, London W12 0TT.

Application forms to be returned by July 31st.

WORKING FOR EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

DIRECTOR OF SALES TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT

c. £35K + Excellent Bonus + Car + Major Company Benefits

This growing and dynamic company, part of a highly successful group, has made a rare and firm commitment to the training and development of its substantial salesforce.

Reporting to the Sales Director, you will have considerable input into the strategic issues relating to both Systems and Business Development, as well as total responsibility for the development and implementation of the sales training plan, through the activities of a dedicated training team.

Aged 28-40, educated to degree level, with a minimum of 3 years sales management experience, as well as exposure at National Account level, you must be able to demonstrate an excellent track record of

success in sales management training gained within the FMCG market place.

Your exceptional presentation skills, analytical and creative abilities and commercial awareness will be tested to their limits in a role which gives you the freedom to create as well as the power to achieve.

As a high profile key member of the Senior Management Team, success will enable you to develop your career within this progressive organisation.

To apply, please send a detailed CV to Mike Penny or Chris Stanton, Highfield International, 6 Sheepscar Court, Leeds, West Yorkshire LS7 2BB. Telephone: 0532 420999. Fax: 0532 421989.



EXECUTIVE SEARCH & SELECTION

jewell 150

HIGH-LEVEL SALES AND MARKETING ROLES IN A MAJOR NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS**Glasgow**
c.£45,000 + attractive bonus + car

This is a unique opportunity to join a major UK company in an exciting new development. The company wishes to broaden the range of services it offers to existing customers by the addition of telecommunications services. To do this it now wishes to expand the core team to include these key positions.

As a member of this management team, you will have significant input into strategy and policy from the earliest stages. Reporting to the General Manager of the new telecommunications business, you will develop a product portfolio that is uniquely designed to meet the needs of customers, integrating all aspects of service delivery to the highest quality standards.

To succeed in one of these highly challenging and rewarding roles, you will need to combine substantial experience with energy and enthusiasm.

Sales Manager

The company is seeking a true professional whose first priority will be to initiate a sales process suited to the industry and the competitive environment in which it operates. You will develop sales plans and targets, ensure sales revenue targets are met, manage the sales team and personally control major accounts.

Of graduate calibre, you should have at least 2-3 years' sales management experience in a large-scale

telecommunications or IT organisation. A knowledge of customer buying policies and industry competitors is essential, as is the ability to control complex sales up to board level. Ref: G2093/ST.

Marketing Manager

In this exciting start-up venture you will manage the marketing plan through its first few crucial years, working closely with the General Manager to develop and implement the business strategy. You will exploit your knowledge of the UK telecoms industry to identify trends and new business opportunities.

A graduate with business or marketing qualifications, your 10-15 years' experience will have been gained within a significant service industry. While sector experience would be an advantage, a record of success in a start-up environment is equally important. Ref: G2094/ST.

Both roles will appeal to self-motivated individuals who possess excellent entrepreneurial and management skills.

Although salaries are as indicated this should not be seen as a barrier to attracting the highest-calibre individuals. Benefits are those you would expect from a progressive organisation and include relocation assistance to the Glasgow area where appropriate.

Please send full cv, which will be forwarded to our client, quoting the appropriate reference, to Steve Higgins, PA Consulting Group, Advertising and Communications, 2 Blythswood Square, Glasgow G2 4AD. Tel: 041-221 3954.

PA Consulting Group

Creating Business Advantage

Executive Recruitment • Human Resource Consultancy • Advertising and Communications

CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGEMENT**Based Worthing, W. Sussex**
Package to £40,000 + car

SmithKline Beecham is one of the foremost transnational pharmaceuticals and healthcare companies with a diverse business profile including the research and development, manufacture and marketing of pharmaceutical products. It is a company strongly committed to excellence and innovation in all of its activities.

The Central Engineering Services function for the region covering Europe and beyond is based at its site in Worthing, Sussex. This provides engineering and construction project support for the corporation's wide-ranging major capital programme covering the full spectrum of research and development, commercial/administration, chemical and pharmaceutical production facilities.

Continuing development means that an experienced Projects Manager is now required with a strong building/building services background gained within

the healthcare industry. Educated to degree level and ideally professionally qualified, you should possess a proven track record in capital projects management. Specific experience in pharmaceutical research and development or secondary production facilities would also be highly advantageous.

Your extensive knowledge of the underlying technical requirements, design processes and contract strategies will be complemented by a high level of credibility and strong interpersonal and communication skills. A second European language would be an advantage together with a mature and broad management approach.

The salary is accompanied by an excellent benefits package which includes a company car, annual bonus, pension, private medical plan, share-matching scheme and relocation assistance where appropriate.

To apply for this high-profile project management role, please send full career details to Peter Bedford, Ref: 5342/PB/ST, PA Consulting Group, 123 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SR.

PA Consulting Group

Creating Business Advantage

Executive Recruitment • Human Resource Consultancy • Advertising and Communications

MARKET DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**South West base**
c.£25,000 OTE £40,000 + car

Backed by the resources of a major group, our client has established a solid platform from which to develop its position as a world leading manufacturer and supplier of premium quality products - marketed under a brand leading name to niche retail outlets.

With a new management team in place and maintaining market share in difficult trading conditions, the Board has agreed this key new appointment to maximise product and market potential.

Reporting directly to the Managing Director, your initial responsibility will focus on three areas: sustaining and building on the company's dominant position in the UK market place; researching, analysing, initiating and developing product range variations and markets; and to drive the company's performance in Europe, currently accounting for one fifth of sales. A critical area will be

the professional analysis and evaluation of marketing trends, sales forecasting, and motivating sales teams to increase margins.

Probably aged in your 30s with a post-graduate Marketing or Business qualification, your career to date will almost certainly have included premium brand management and development in an international retailing environment. Computer literacy is vital, with the ability to interpret management information that impacts directly on the business, in conjunction with managing the sales and distribution network to achieve objectives. A second European language would be a major advantage.

The position carries a generous bonus to attract performance-related achievers, for whom long-term group-wide prospects are first class.

Please forward comprehensive cv, indicating current remuneration, to Philip Guy, Ref: 5419/PG/ST, PA Consulting Group, 6 Highfield Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 3DJ.

PA Consulting Group

Creating Business Advantage

Executive Recruitment • Human Resource Consultancy • Advertising and Communications

**UNEMPLOYED:
There IS a job out there for you.***All you have to do is find it.*

That's where we come in.

We know a lot about recessions.
We're a group of specialist career consultants who have been providing personalised career programmes to senior executives for over 40 years.

We've helped through times good and bad and have learned that good people are always hard to come by - no matter what the economic climate.

Understanding that fact is the first step to achieving success.

The unadvertised job market continues rich with opportunity. If you want to tap

in and find that job, we'll help by guiding you in the right direction. We offer executive placement, or self-employed CV 24-hour answeringphone in all offices.

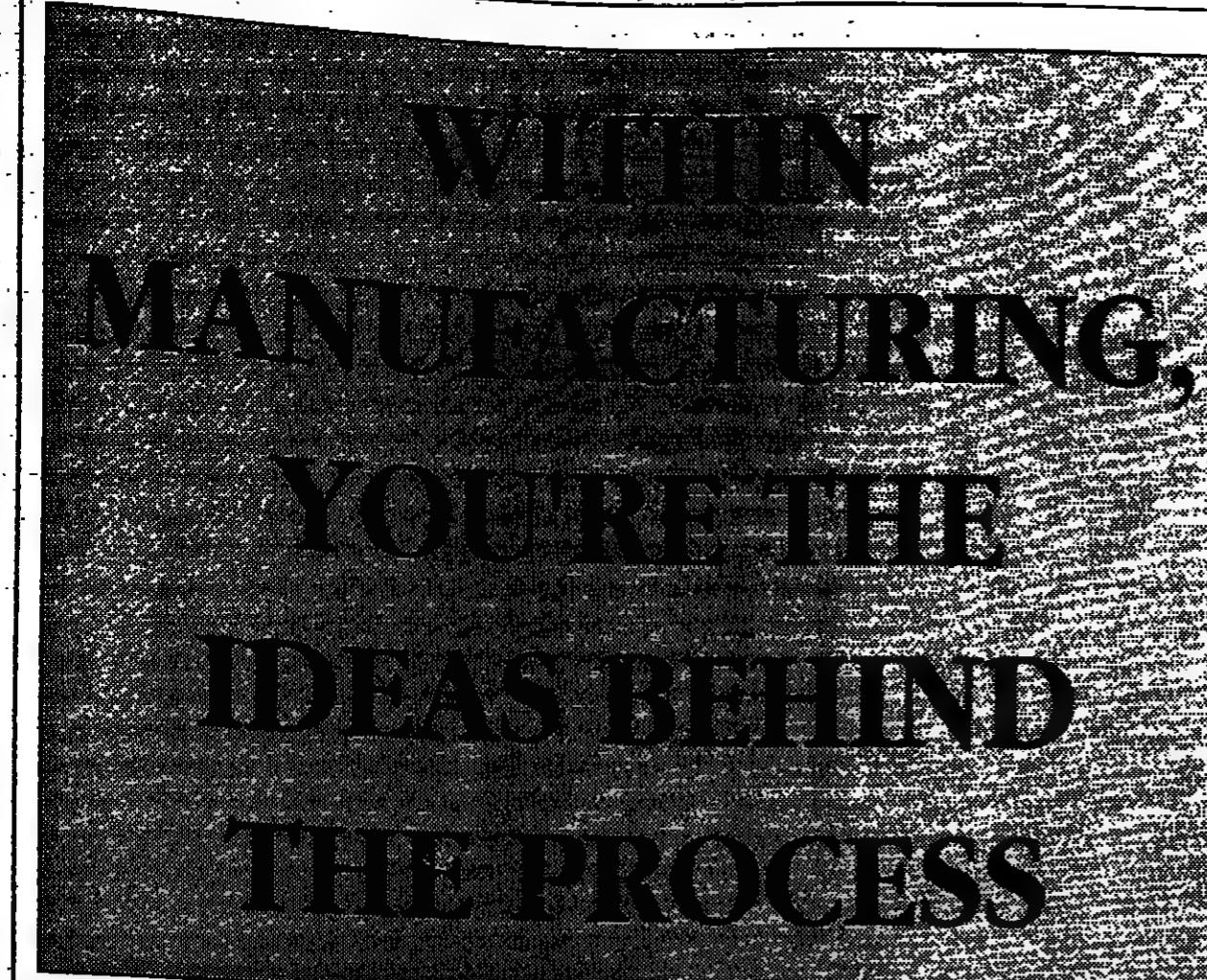
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CHISWICK LANE 25/07/92



Manufacturing Consultancy

to £70,000 package

Andersen Consulting is one of the world's largest business and technology consultancies, providing strategic answers for major "blue-chip" clients and giving them competitive business advantage now and well into the future.

Our Manufacturing Operations Division continues to expand across the aerospace, industrial, automotive and consumer products sectors with a reputation for achieving substantial and sustainable benefits for clients.

We are seeking to recruit graduates with 4 to 7 years industrial or consultancy experience, ideally gained within Manufacturing Operations, Procurement or Engineering.

You will become a key member of a multidisciplinary team whose activities range from strategic reviews to building new facilities. Your ideas will influence the decisions which enable the achievement of change, growth and business success.

London/Manchester

We, in return, will develop and enhance your skills to their full potential, preparing you for Partnership in your early 30's.

If you seek to develop your ideas within the challenging environment of manufacturing consultancy, please send your curriculum vitae to David Macdonald, Andersen Consulting, 2 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3LT.

Metamorphosis in a world of change.

ANDERSEN CONSULTING
ARTHUR ANDERSEN & CO. S.C.

ELECTRICITY SALES MANAGER

c £40,000 + bonus + car
Maidenhead

Do you have the energy to lead a powerful sales drive?

Serving 2.5 million customers, and with a turnover of over £1.7 billion, Southern Electric is one of the largest businesses in the South of England.

With a huge local market, it's also an exciting business with real potential - good news if you're a sales professional with the energy to match our own.

This is a unique opportunity with prime responsibility to ensure that we achieve profitable growth. Your role will encompass Energy and Contract sales within our region, working closely with Divisional based sales staff to motivate them and ensure the achievement of their sales targets.

To meet the challenging brief, we are looking for someone with a proven track record in sales management plus a thorough knowledge of the electricity market. Experience of electroheat technology would be an advantage. You will also need to demonstrate the ability to motivate and manage sales staff and produce results within budget and time constraints in this competitive environment.

Alongside the salary indicated your package will include bonus scheme, car and comprehensive relocation assistance if necessary.

To apply send your CV to David Burke, Managing Consultant, Townsend Knight, Knightway House, London Road, Bagshot, Surrey GU19 5AQ. Please quote reference YS981.

An Equal Opportunity Employer.

SOUTHERN ELECTRIC

Wrong job? Redundant?

Neither means being out of the running

We are a team of career professionals who care about your future, whether you are employed or not. Finding the right job is all about confidence, aptitude and contacts. Our expertise is comprehensive and individually tailored to meet your needs, goals and the right position - often within the unadvertised market.

McKenzie Waterman & Co., St. Alpheus House, Finsbury Street, London EC2Y 5DA



Call Wilson McKenzie on 071 920 0480 to arrange an initial meeting for Merseyside call 051 236 5560, Manchester 061 834 2169 and Midlands 0788 546107.

McKenzie Waterman

AN OPPORTUNITY IN TELEPHONE SALES

A leading national newspaper is looking for full time Telephone Salespeople to work in its busy Classified Advertising Department. (Hours include some Saturdays 9-1pm).

Previous telephone sales experience an advantage along with good spelling, basic typing and good communication skills but full training will be given.

If you think you can work in this lively, fast moving environment then please reply to

TELEPHONE 071 782 7993

£70K+	£60K+	£50K+	£40K+	£30K+	£20K+
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DIRECTORS/MANAGERS

UNEMPLOYED? EX-PAT? CAREER RUIN? RECESSION HIT

You need a new position - With hundreds of applicants applying for each advertised position, how can an individual compete in the marketplace?

Fletcher Hunt are not an agency, but a specialist team established to help individuals seeking fast career change to find the right position quickly and professionally, normally within the unadvertised market. Consultancy is sometimes available to our unemployed clients.

Phone Richard Holman on 071-436 8886

59 Devonshire Street, London WIN 7JL

CAREER CONSULTANTS

London C71-436 8886
Birmingham 0423 225222
Norwich 0603 220554
Yorkshire 0422 885553

Plymouth 0788 546371
Dublin 0124 324422
Newcastle 091 224 1010
Bristol 0872 308284

Southampton 0703 441237
Scotland 0783 441237

REGIONAL SALES MANAGER (SUPPLIES)

Pan Graphics is one of the leading companies operating in the printing equipment, supplies and reprographic materials market. We require a highly motivated individual to manage and develop our existing sales force and take sales operation in London and South East Region. The successful candidate must be able to demonstrate a track record in motivating and organising a large sales team. Experience within the printing supplies and reprographic materials market is not essential. OTE £35k plus company car. Please write enclosing c.v. to

PAN GRAPHICS

London

£30,000 + Bonus + Car

Pricing Analysts

Apply your business acumen to the challenge of international telecommunications

This is a superb opportunity to join one of the fastest growing telecommunications outsourcing organisations, providing global data, image and voice networks to major multinationals. Headquartered in the US, our client is expanding across Europe and now requires two key individuals to join their London operation.

As part of a high calibre team, you will be responsible for the interpretation and analysis of financial, commercial and economic data to provide innovative and competitive pricing strategies in response to requests to tender. You will be a key member of the bid team and your subsequent recommendations will be instrumental in ensuring the successful introduction of new business.

To succeed in this high profile role, you will

possess a strong academic record including a business or marketing related degree and ideally an MBA. You will have at least four years' industry experience gained in a financial analysis, marketing and/or business development role with a telecomm/computing service provider, management consultancy or large IT user.

The excellent salary package reflects the importance of the role and includes a company car plus a comprehensive range of benefits.

If you have the rare combination of excellent interpersonal and business skills coupled with the ambition to succeed in this high growth market sector, please contact Goodman Graham & Associates, advising consultants, at the address below, quoting reference 4501.

GOODMAN GRAHAM
AND ASSOCIATES

8 Beaumont Gate, Shenley Hill, Radlett, Herts WD7 1AR.
Telephone: 0923 855115. Fax: 0923 854791

TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS

A VOICE FOR THE FUTURE

Northern Telecom is one of the world's leading developers and suppliers of fully digital telecommunications equipment and solutions. In the UK, our Meridian and Monstar ranges form the backbone of the private switching capability we provide to our customers.

HOME COUNTIES - NORTH SERVICE ASSURANCE MANAGERS

£26-£36,000 + CAR + BENEFITS

The importance of these appointments is reflected in the fact that they report directly to NT's Director of Quality and Service.

Taking a highly proactive and autonomous stance, you'll work closely with one of our leading customers at a senior management and technical level with the prime aim of continuously improving the performance of our products and services. You'll also be responsible for delivering a high level of service support to the customer, in a way that integrates effectively with their own performance and management goals.

With the ability to prepare and implement business plans - taking a long term strategic view on the technical and commercial evolution of the sector - your confident management style must be allied to a detailed understanding of the customer issues in the areas of QA, product management and product development.

With a degree/HND in Electrical/Electronic Engineering applicants should have a proven background in the telecommunications industry, spanning experience of Field Operations and Applications, QA, Project Management and Communications.

To apply, please send a full cv, with home, work, telephone numbers, to our recruitment consultants, JG Associates, 12 Celbridge Mews, Porchester Road, London W2 6EU, quoting reference no. 071 368. Tel: 071-243 1888 Fax: 071-792 9016

nt northern telecom

Career Evaluation

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc have branches throughout the South East and are looking for intelligent and professionally minded people between 25 and 50 to market their range of financial services.

If you have ever wondered whether a career in sales or marketing would suit you, this is your opportunity to find out. We would like to invite you to attend a meeting to be held shortly which would discuss and explain the opportunities available within the Group and also - most importantly - offer a COMPREHENSIVE ALTERNATIVE CAREER EVALUATION exercise.

We have for many years prided ourselves in our ability to select talent from outside the financial services industry and to develop very successful Financial Planning Consultants from those who have had no experience of sales in the past.

Please come with a brief cv to Emma Brown, Allied Dunbar, 1st Floor, Clockhouse Court, 5-11 London Road, St. Albans, Herts AL1 1AA or call 0727 834511.

Opportunities exist in the following locations: Borehamwood, Central London, Crawley, Essex, East Midlands, Birmingham, St. Albans, Watford, Yukung, N.W. London and other locations nationwide.

Allied Dunbar Assurance plc
an Equal Opportunities Group

General Manager - Consultancy

Northern Office Newcastle upon Tyne

£235 - £28k + Car + Profit Share + W.P.A.

Anticipated future growth of this Retail and Leisure Consultancy, particularly within the European marketplace, has created the need for a General Manager who can contribute towards their growth and expansion.

This consultancy specialises in a "Hands-on" approach to strategic marketing solutions and project implementation. Your role will not only involve the man-management of Project Teams, but you will also be responsible for creative and strategic input, client presentation and account development.

Ideally you will be a graduate who speaks one or more European languages; have a minimum of 3 years experience within a consultancy, and have a background in Retail and/or Leisure. The demands are very challenging and the successful candidate will need both drive and ambition to succeed in a competitive environment.

Please call Celeste Cowman today on 081-543 7121 (between 4pm and 8pm only) or Post/Fax your resume to her at Spectrum Specialist Marketing/Recruitment.

S P H C T R U M

SPECIALIST MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS RECRUITMENT
CARTER HOUSE, 2022 CAVEN ROAD, LONDON NW1 3TF. TELEPHONE: 071-724 0211. FAX: 071-724 9332.

Pera International is one of Europe's largest and most successful business and technology centres, providing help and advice to companies in all sectors of industry.

The last five years have seen a substantial growth in the size and scope of our business, and we now wish to recruit experienced senior professionals to develop our business further in the following areas:

TOTAL QUALITY MANAGEMENT
You should be able to demonstrate an ability to communicate effectively at all levels and have experience of implementing Total Quality programmes in a range of industrial sectors.

HUMAN RESOURCES
You should have a substantial record of achievement as a Consultant advising businesses on people and organisational matters.

(These positions are based at our Management Centre in the South West).

TRAINING

You should have several years' experience of running a successful training business and have a proven track record of new course development.

ADVANCED MATERIALS APPLICATIONS

You will need to demonstrate a thorough understanding of the application of modern materials to industrial products and processes, coupled with several years' consulting experience.

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY

You will need to have a broad background in the application of advanced techniques, preferably in a range of industrial sectors.

(These positions are based at our Technology Centre in the East Midlands).

Business Managers

South West & East Midlands

pera
International

To apply you must be educated to degree level, and be able to demonstrate the highest levels of achievement. In return we offer an excellent remuneration and benefits package.

Please write to Mike Thompson at our Head Office at 54 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH. We will then ask you to complete our application form, so there is no need for you to submit a full CV with your original letter.

Please note: To be considered, your application form must reach us no later than Friday 24th July 1992.

Since our client arrived in Britain seven years ago, you no longer have to cast envious glances at our continental cousins. The company's London office is well-established and plans to double its size by the end of next year. This means that all the advantages of a major operator's reputation, resources and business prospects are now open to you here.

The company has the most extensive and diversified corporate product range on the market and its outstandingly successful development programme has given it the edge in many areas of international telecommunications.

FOR AMBITIOUS TELECOMS SPECIALISTS, MOVING TO EUROPE DOESN'T MEAN CROSSING THE CHANNEL.

Central London MAJOR ACCOUNT MANAGER

To £32k basic, £44k OTE + car

Ideally in your 30s, and educated to degree level, you will have a proven track record in selling telecoms or other high technology solutions or products in an international environment. You will be responsible for developing business within a portfolio of the company's major accounts.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

To £25k basic, £30k OTE + car

Ideally a graduate with several years' experience in high technology sales. This is an opportunity to play a major part in a first class team selling international telecoms services.

The ability to speak French would be a major advantage in all roles. Other European languages would be a plus. In every case the company offers an excellent range of benefits and good prospects for career progression.

Find out full details by posting your cv, today, to Ian Bennett, Kramer Westfield 1st Base, Recruitment Consultants, Garden House, London Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire SL5 0LL. Fax (0344) 874877.

KRAMER WESTFIELD
1st BASE

An excellent opportunity for a Business Director of outstanding ability to grow a Professional Services Group. The focus will be to drive forward the end user services business of a world leader in Open Systems based distributed computing and connectivity. The role combines high level sales and management of the people and delivery process. Your experience of creating and developing business opportunities with significant end user clients and delivering quality and cost effective solutions will be a major factor in ensuring the growth of the UK company.

Director – Professional Services

- Aggressive salary
- Significant benefits including bonus
- Attractive stock options
- Quality executive car
- Location Herts

MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANCY &
EXECUTIVE
SELECTION
Tel. 071 637 9611

The Company

The largest independent developer and provider of Open Systems based distributed computing technology and services. Offering a broad range of custom development services to OEMs, systems integrators and larger end users. Profitable and well funded. Rapidly growing international market presence by a combination of acquisition and organic growth. High profile entrepreneurial culture. Committed to quality.

The Position

Responsible for defining the target marketplace and developing a successful and profitable professional services group, reporting to European MD. Lead sales and account development to achieve revenue, profit and market share. Manage team of technical consultants. Negotiate contracts/bids, value up to £2m. Oversee preparation and presentation of proposals. Manage implementation and process. Forecast business and monitor customer accounts.

Qualifications

Demonstrable success and track record in complex sales and account development in a professional services organisation, preferably in Open Systems software or related areas.

Aged 35-45, graduate, international experience and strong man management skills.

Awareness of Open Systems market trends and technologies.

Ambitious and tenacious, a desire to make it happen, driven by quality of results, team player.

We need a top flight professional, therefore package will not be an obstacle.

Please reply, enclosing full details to Karen Whelan, quoting Ref. KW2625, to Management & Executive Selection, 2nd Floor, Albany House, 324 Regent Street, London W1R 5AA.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

Groupe
Pernod Ricard

GLOBAL DRINKS MARKETING OPPORTUNITY FOR "TOP FLIGHT" STRATEGIC BRAND MARKETEER

Age: 28-35
Based: West London
Pernod Ricard with its portfolio of internationally acclaimed brands including - Pernod, Ricard, Dubonnet, Jägermeister and Black Bush Irish Whiskies, Aberlour Malt Whisky, Wild Turkey Bourbon, Blenkin Cognac, Alesis Liqueur and Orlando wines - is Europe's largest and the world's third largest wines and spirits group.

Committed to further enhancing its global position the group wish to recruit a senior marketing executive who will be responsible and accountable for developing strategy together with brand specific premium product/packaging initiatives targeted at the highly prestigious worldwide Duty Free and premium gift markets.

Ideal candidates will be graduates; have a minimum of 5 years' classical "blue chip" marketing experience that includes some sales negotiating/retail account handling; have a proven track record championing premium, heavily packaged FMCG brands that require on-going product/packaging initiatives; and are able to demonstrate vision, pragmatism and outstanding commercial and interpersonal skills.

It is essential that all candidates are conversant in French, good team leaders/members and able to demonstrate the potential and commitment to progress within the Pernod Ricard Group.

Please Post/Fax your CV,
quoting reference HR-467, to
Vincent O'Hagan at
VIP Management
Consultants, Birch Cottage,
Bridgeway Close, Cranleigh,
Surrey GU6 7JD. Tel: 0483-268298, Fax: 0483-268329.

VI
P
MANAGEMENT
CONSULTANTS

HUB CENTRE MANAGER

Our Investment – Your Opportunity

c£27,500 pa + Car

Lynx is already the market leader in network distribution. Our recent £4m investment in a Hub Centre at Nunton is further evidence of our determination to stay well ahead of the competition. It is here that we are looking for a Hub Manager of exceptional ability to run the centre and its 300 staff handling around 90,000 packages daily.

Previous experience in managing a large central sorting system is essential, coupled with proven skills in industrial and mechanical engineering. Equally important is the ability to manage people in a highly constructive manner, thus ensuring the Hub Centre works to its maximum potential.

In everything we do, quality is the key mission, and we are looking for a like minded dedicated professional who will make a major contribution to the continued success of Lynx.

In return you can expect an excellent salary and benefits package, including relocation, coupled with career opportunities to match the highest aspirations.

In the first instance please write enclosing CV to: Mr. Paul Cook, Personnel Director, Lynx, Fountain House, Great Corabow, Halesowen, West Midlands B63 3BS

LYNX

Express Delivery Network

Atlas Wireline Services, a division of Western Atlas International Inc., is a leading supplier of formation evaluation services to the petroleum industry. To complement existing business we will establish an independent bureau to provide strategic level geoscience support to the exploration & production sector.

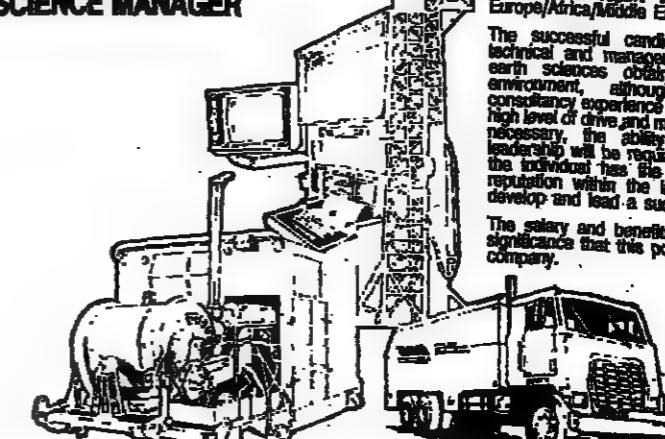
We now wish to recruit a Geoscience Manager who will drive this development and establish the business as the preferred industry supplier. The role reports to the General Manager, Europe/Africa/Middle East, based in London.

The successful candidate will have a broad technical and management experience within the earth sciences obtained in a complex environment, although service area specific geological experience would also be desirable. A necessary, the role requires prior vision, and leadership will be required to develop and maintain a reputation within the industry to enable the company to develop and lead a successful commercial venture.

The salary and benefits package will reflect the significance that this position will have within the company.

ATLAS
WIRELINE
SERVICES

GEOSCIENCE MANAGER



Applicants should write, enclosing a detailed C.V. to: The Personnel Manager, Atlas Wireline Services 455 Isthmian Road, Middlesex TW7 5AB. Tel: 081 566 3180

CUSTOMER SYSTEMS MANAGER

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In return, we offer a competitive basic salary, plus incentive scheme, and a generous benefit package commensurate with the responsibilities with this role.

If you believe you have the skills and experience we are looking for and can make a significant contribution to our business, please send a copy of your CV, quoting your current remuneration, to:

Alan Miller, Personnel Director, Neville & Gladstone Limited, 86-96 New Barnet Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN4 8HQ

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Financial Consultants must be Qualified Accountants and have 5+ years large company experience.

Distribution / Manufacturing Consultants need 7+ years shop floor experience and a broad understanding of MRP, MPS and SOP issues.

If you are interested in being part of a dynamic team, send a brief resume to: Mary Campbell, Managing Consultant, Business Technology Consultants Ltd, Masons House, 1-3 Valley Drive, Kingsbury, London NW9 9NG. Tel: 081-204 1665 Fax: 081-204 9782

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To apply you must be educated to degree level with at least three years' consultancy experience. We are looking for exceptional individuals who can demonstrate the highest levels of achievement. In return we offer an excellent remuneration and benefits package.

Please write to Mike Thompson at our Head Office at 54 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JH. We will then ask you to complete an application form, so there is no need for you to submit a full CV with your original letter.

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Product Line Managers £35k-£40k

Reporting to the Director, Product Marketing, the Product Line Manager is responsible for overall product line planning, development and management. New product development is a key function of this position.

PROFILE • Aged 30-35 years • 3-5 years product management experience gained from telecommunications or a closely related business with strong networking background • Strong planning, organisational and execution skills • A technical first Degree preferably in an Engineering discipline • An MBA is an asset along with skills in French or German.

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For further details please send your CV, quoting the appropriate ref number, to: TCS Confidential Reply Service, 35 Garway Road, London W2 4QF.

Product Managers £30k-£35k

Reporting to the Product Line Manager, the Product Manager is responsible for key product planning, development and management, with new product development a priority.

PROFILE • Aged 28-32 years • 2-4 years product management, support, or marketing experience in a telecommunications or closely related business • Strong planning, organisational and execution skills • A technical first Degree preferably in an Engineering discipline • An MBA is an added asset along with skills in French or German.

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Aged in your 30's or 40's you must be able to demonstrate considerable success in the sale of High Value Capital Equipment in your chosen geographic area. Any exposure to the Airline/Aerospace industries would be an advantage as would an engineering background. As you will be expected to initiate and close business with customers and potentially their respective Governments, Ministries and/or nominated representatives, your past experience should ideally include contacts at similar level.

Operating extensively overseas where lines of communication may become strained, you should also demonstrate creativity and resourcefulness in managing the full sales cycle without direct support. You will be given a high degree of responsibility and autonomy to manage your area and future prospects within such a prestigious group are excellent.

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Initially we are looking for the following, all to be UK based, some making brief site visits:

PROJECT MANAGER

You'll be managing a multi-discipline team of 40 plus, covering all systems and multi-

company programmes. You'll also interface with other Managers to ensure total requirements capture and coherent systems integration. Producing plans, schedules and budgets then hitting targets as agreed will all be your responsibility. So in-depth experience at this level, working on high-value, fixed price programmes in a fast-track environment is vital.

DEPUTY PROJECT MANAGER

As the key link between the company's electronics design team and outside civil/construction design teams you'll liaise to ensure complete integration. Supporting and deputising for the Project Manager, you'll also work in close co-operation with the prime contractors and foreign design offices. Management experience of multi-company projects in similar fields is essential, coupled with high-level technical competency and positive people management skills.

GROUP LEADERS

Programme Management - to support the project management with high quality planning, configuration and documentation

Managing Director Food Processing

Devon

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Sie reicht diese Herausforderung und sind nicht älter als 35 Jahre, dann erwarten wir Ihre aussagefähige Bewerbung in deutscher Sprache unter Einbeziehung Ihres Gehaltsrahmens und eines möglichen Elterntermines.

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Product and Procurement Engineering - to lead and assist the engineering team, liaising with other group leaders to align the system design with current technology availability in addition to negotiating with system/equipment contractors. On-going knowledge of the equipment, Data Communication Command and Control systems and/or Airport Services equipment is key.

Systems Engineering and Support - to contribute engineering services; interface design and control, common engineering design, installation design and liaison. A knowledge of civil engineering practice would be an advantage.

All Group Leaders must be suitably qualified in electronics or air traffic management, with good communication skills, both verbal and written. For all positions a relevant numerate/scientific degree would be preferred. An HND/HNC could be acceptable and qualification by experience would be considered. It is important however that you have had exposure to complex, large scale, high-technology engineering projects.

These are permanent appointments which offer a comprehensive range of benefits and excellent long term career development prospects.

Please write enclosing a full CV including current salary and stating the position which interests you, to **Beverley Langley, Scott Edgar Advertising Partnership Ltd., Paragon House, 75 Farrington Road, London EC1M 3JY**. Please mark your envelope with reference 4126.

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You are likely to have a degree or post-graduate qualification in a land use subject, environmental science, planning or related discipline and at least five years' previous experience in a relevant field. You will also require well-developed and tested skills of diplomacy, an appreciation of the decision-making process and an ability to lead, motivate and communicate effectively at all levels.

For full details and an application form, please telephone (0243) 777201 or write to the Clerk of the Sussex Downs Conservation Board, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RQ. Closing date: 17th August, 1992. (3426)

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**ADMINISTRATIVE
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We seek a graduate with 2-3 years work experience for a post in Fiscal Policy & Service Industries to deal with fiscal and economic matters in the UK and EC, assist in preparation of statistics and provide support in monitoring/analysing individual port developments and legislative changes. The successful candidate will prepare briefs, reports, etc and liaise with Government officials and other national associations as necessary. Analytical and good written and oral skills are key attributes. Candidates should be computer literate and familiar with the handling of economic data. The salary offered will be in the region of £14,000.

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We are also seeking a graduate to work in International Policy/External Relations who will help to research and prepare papers on issues relevant to EC and world-wide shipping policy, monitor developments from the Press, compile and maintain data bases and provide guidance and advice to members on specific issues. The successful applicant will also be involved in the production of a Newsletter and be responsible for the maintenance of our photographic library. Good writing ability, and a foreign language, together with a lively interest in current events are desirable. The salary offered will be in the region of £12,000-£12,500.

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Further details and an application form, to be returned by 5 August 1992, can be obtained from:

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Husband's share for trustee**In re Flint (a Bankrupt)**
Before Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC
[Judgment July 3]

Where the court made an order under section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 ordering the transfer of property by a person against whom a bankruptcy petition had been presented, that order was valid under section 284 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Mr Nicholas Stewart, QC, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, so held in a judgment delivered in the Chancery Division, dismissing the appeal of Brenda Flint from Judge Roberta in Shrewsbury County Court who on December 16, 1991, had ordered that a transfer of property order made in Crewe County Court on July 18, 1990, was void as against the trustee in bankruptcy of Romeo Flint and that the house held in trust for the trustee in bankruptcy and Mrs Flint in equal shares.

Section 284 of the 1986 Act provides: "Where a person is adjudged bankrupt, any disposition of property made by that person in the period to which this

section applies [which by subsection (3) is the period between the date of the bankruptcy petition and the date of the bankruptcy estate in his trustee in bankruptcy] is void except to the extent that it is or was made with the consent of the court or is or was subsequently ratified by the court."

Mr David Parry for Mrs Flint; Mr David Stockill for the trustee.

His LORDSHIP said that Mr and Mrs Flint had been married and had jointly owned the matrimonial home. In March 1990 they were divorced. On May 22, a bankruptcy petition was presented against Mr Flint.

On July 18, in the course of Mrs Flint's application for ancillary relief, a transfer of property order was made under section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 by consent of Crewe County Court ordering Mr Flint to transfer all his interest in the house to Mrs Flint. On July 24, Mr Flint was adjudicated bankrupt in Shrewsbury County Court.

The trustee in bankruptcy claimed that the fact that the transfer of property order took place between the presentation of the bankruptcy petition and the bankruptcy order made the transfer of property order invalid.

the bankruptcy petition and the bankruptcy order made the transfer of property order invalid under section 284 of the 1986 Act. Judge Roberts had upheld that argument.

By her appeal, Mrs Flint claimed that he was wrong in that the transfer of property order was not a disposition by Mr Flint but a disposition by the court so that section 284 did not apply. Alternatively, if section 284 did apply, the judge should have exercised his discretion as to ratify the transaction within section 284.

His LORDSHIP held that the court made a transfer of property order by consent of the parties under section 24 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 by consent of Crewe County Court ordering Mr Flint to transfer all his interest in the house to Mrs Flint. On July 24, Mr Flint was adjudicated bankrupt in Shrewsbury County Court.

That conclusion did not depend on the Crewe order being a consent order. If the relevant parts of the order had been the result of a consent application the result would have been the same.

As soon as the court made its order, whether or not by consent, the transfer of property in accordance with the order became compulsory in a way that it was not immediately before the making of the order. But the fact that it was

Accordingly Mrs Flint's appeal was dismissed.

Solicitors Vizards for Robert De Coninck & Co, Crewe; George Green & Co, Cradley Heath.

Power to halt proceedings**George Tan Soon Gin v Judge Cameron and Another**The manner in which the court should exercise its exceptional jurisdiction to halt criminal proceedings was correctly stated in *Attorney-General's Reference (No 1 of 1990) (The Times April 15: 1992) 3 WLR 9, 18-19*.

The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council (Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Jauncey of Tullichero, Lord Browne-Wilkinson, Lord Moulton and Lord Slynn of Hadley) so held on June 29, in dismissing an appeal by George Tan Son Gin from Mr Justice Barnett ([1991] 2 HKLR 400) in the High Court of Hong Kong, who refused the appellant's application for judicial review of the decision of Judge Cameron. In the District Court on December 4, 1990, whereby he refused to stay criminal proceedings against the appellant.

Corrections**In R v Knowsley MBC, Ex parte Maguire** (*The Times June 26*) the solicitors for the council were Weightman, Rutherford, Liverpool.In *Auckland v PAHV (International) Ltd* (*The Times June 19*) the Act referred to was the Taxes Management Act 1970.**Letter did not create tenancy****Brent London Borough Council v O'Bryan and Others**

Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice McGowan and Lord Justice Belدام [Judgment July 6]

A letter from a local authority education officer agreeing to the monthly letting of non-residential premises on terms to be laid down by valuers could not be construed as an agreement to grant to the occupier a monthly tenancy.

The Court of Appeal so held allowing an appeal by Brent London Borough Council from the decision on November 1, 1991, of Mr Assistant Recorder Morris at Wood Green County Court whereby he had dismissed Brent London Borough Council's claim for possession of a scout hut at 161 Willesden Lane and of adjoining premises at 163 against the occupier, Mrs Michelle O'Bryan.

Mr Terence Gilligan for the council; Mr Shane Dougall for the occupier.

LORD JUSTICE BELدام said that the letter, addressed to the occupier but not indicating the premises it was referring to, stated that "the education committee agreed to the monthly letting of the premises to you on the terms laid down by the valuers". The recorder held that that amounted to an

agreement to grant a tenancy. How he reached that decision was difficult to understand. Having been referred during the trial to *Javed v Mohammed Asif* ([1991] 1 WLR 1007, 1013) he would have done well to have headed the advice of Lord Justice Nicholls that "when one party permits another to enter or remain on his land on payment of a sum of money... there will be some consequential relationship between them. It may be no more than a licence determinable at any time, or a tenancy at will. But when and so long as such parties are in the throes of negotiating larger terms, caution must be exercised before inferring or imputing to the parties an intention to give to the occupant more than a very limited interest, be it licence or tenancy."

The occupier had taken possession of the hut in 1988 and extended her possession to the adjoining premises.

The letter of November 18 amounted to no more than a statement of willingness by the local authority to offer to let property to the occupier on a monthly basis when the value had decided what the rent should be.

Lord Justice Nourse gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice McCowan agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Stephen R. Foster, Wembley; Vallance Lickfolds.

It was accepted that the right of a plaintiff to have his case tried and not delayed indefinitely was an important consideration in working out a framework and timetable for the determination of multifarious claims raising similar issues, the public interest in minimising costs where there was a possibility of unnecessary duplication carried equal weight.

Mr Justice Hirst so stated in the Queen's Bench Division on June 10 when settling in a statement in open court the order in which cases in the interest rates swaps litigation would be selected and brought forward as lead cases for the trial of common issues on the application of a number of banks for their cases to be selected as lead actions.

HIS LORDSHIP said that in view of the recent settlement by six of the previously selected lead actions (*The Times* May 15) the first question was whether it was appropriate to make a further order in the light of the failure of the previous order to produce a convenient framework. There was no doubt that it was. It would be unthinkable that such a large number of cases should go forward in disorganized fashion.

The most important requirement was to decide the resumption issue, not least because the decision on that key point would constitute by far the most useful guideline for the general body of lead cases.

In the second group of actions, on the question of intermediation, third party proceedings should not be hived off separately.

The lead actions would be arranged in a group for the trial of the issue in three tiers to allow for the further settlement of claims before the trial and those actions in the second and third tier would be required to prepare their cases to the level of the exchange of witness statements to facilitate their swift progress to trial in the event of settlement of the lead actions.

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Law Report July 16 1992

LIFE & TIMES THURSDAY JULY 16 1992

Court of Appeal

Flood no evidence of non-repair

rainfall was a fact indicative of one or both of the defendants' failure to fulfil their obligations, whether those were obligations of statutory imposition or of a common law duty to take reasonable care.

In *Burnside v Emerson* ([1968] 1 WLR 1490, 1494) Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, had said "occasional flooding of a river is not in itself evidence of a failure to maintain it, but all know that in times of heavy rain our highways do from time to time get flooded. Leaves and debris and all sorts of things may be swept in and cause flooding for a time without any failure to repair."

On the basis of that statement of the law there was no evidence on which the judge could find that the collection of water was evidence of non-repair of the highway or breach of any statutory duty by the first defendant.

The doctrine of res ipsa loquitur

did not apply. Moreover, there was no evidence of the second defendant's failure to take reasonable care.

The collection of storm water was a temporary event that might have been caused by debris being carried by the rain and causing a blockage, of which neither the highway authority nor the sewer authority had any knowledge.

The plaintiff had failed in establishing any circumstance which was more consistent with a failure by either of the defendants to carry out their statutory obligations than it was with one of those transient events when rainfall was so heavy that the sewers could not carry it off immediately.

Lord Justice Stocker gave a concluding judgment.

Solicitors: Walter Smith & Way, Wrexham; Clement Jones, Llandudno.

How reasons should be given**In re B (Minors)**

Newark and Southwell Justices granted custody of the children of the family to the father with access to the mother.

LORD JUSTICE BELدام said although the present case was instituted before the rules came into effect it was appropriate to give guidance. However no criticism was being made against the magistrates who had determined the case.

Now that magistrates were required by rule 21(6) of the 1991 Rules to state their oral reasons when they made an order or refused an application, it was helpful to the parties and to any appellate court subsequently considering the matter if they set out the relevant facts in chronological order, or under such headings as might be convenient, making it clear what was in dispute and what was not, and that they made findings on any matters which were in dispute.

It was also helpful if, in giving the reasons for their decision, they mentioned the factors which they had brought into the balancing exercise, even if obvious.

The losing party, especially in cases which were so emotionally charged as those concerning the custody of children, wanted to know why he or she had lost, and that his or her main arguments had been taken into account. That was not to say that every point however trivial had to be dealt with, but an appellate court also would need to know the basis of their decision.

Protection for small shops**Regina v Khan (22)**

guilty by Julian Zeb Khan, aged 27, to counts charging that, robbery and possession of an imitation firearm at a small grocery shop and threatening to kill the shopkeeper's son aged 15 and his mother, who were serving in the shop. He also pleaded guilty to possession of the imitation firearm when committing criminal damage to a police car chasing him and to affray.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE said that such small shops were without sophisticated security and they required protection by the court. They were often staffed by only one or two persons who might be unable to do much by way of defending themselves.

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CHARITY COMMISSION Charter - Thelma Victoria Association for Mental Health have made a Scheme for this charity. A copy can be seen at Lane End, Reading RG2 7LP. Letters, Enquiries, etc, a copy can be obtained by sending an addressed envelope to Woodfield House, 100 Station Road, Twickenham, Surrey TW1 4EP. JCM-SDT/92/1-COT/1

LEGAL NOTICES

INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 ART SHOPS LIMITED NOTICE OF PROPOSAL Pursuant to Section 100 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a Meeting of Creditors will be held at the head office of the Company named with be held at 100 Alexandra Street, Southgate, London N12 7JU on Friday 10th July 1992 at 10.00 am for the purposes mentioned in Section 100 of the Insolvency Act. Brian Mills Managing Director, Practitioner of Roots White & Eason, 881 1EF will represent Creditors. Letters, Enquiries, etc, a copy of the Scheme may be obtained by sending an addressed envelope to Woodfield House, 100 Station Road, Twickenham, Surrey TW1 4EP. DATED THIS 26th day of July BY ORDER OF THE BOARD M. D. FRANCIS, DIRECTOR.

MONTGOMERY HOTEL LTD. No. of Contract: 2572404 N.D. 1992. HENRY GIVIN GIVEN THAT:

BY A Special Resolution of the shareholders held on 1st July 1992, the investment of £1,000,000 by the Company for the purposes of the Company according to the Statute of Incorporation of the Company, was authorised.

The amount of the permissible investment under Sections 170, 171 and 172 of the Act 1986 is £1,000,000.

3. The statutory declaration of the said Act will respect to the inspection of the Registered Office of the Company, the registered office of the Montgomery Hotel, Birmingham, West Midlands.

4. Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the period 16 weeks immediately following the date of publication of the above mentioned Special Resolution to Section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting

NEWGATE GROUP LIMITED (An Administrative Receiver) No. of Contract: 2572404 N.D. 1992. GENEVA APPROVALS LTD. No. 22 72325. Notice of the appointment of the Administrative Receiver 3 July 1992. Geneval Holdings Ltd. 1992. Notice of the appointment of Administrators. Directors of the Company, 10-12 Finsbury Square, London EC2M 7AJ. Notice of the appointment of the Administrators of Anchor Breweries, 60 Strand, London WC2R 0EE. Notice of the appointment of the Administrators of Tivoli Bitter, London WC1R 5TF. Office Holder Numbers 1206 and 1831 are given.

5. NO. CO/001 of 1992 IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE, LONDON, ENGLAND, CHANCERY DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF SUNGEON PLC and

6. IN THE MATTER OF THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986 NOTICE TO HERALD GIVIN THAT: Notice is hereby given that the Honorable Mr Justice Miller at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL, on Monday, the 27th day of July 1992.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the Company is directed to be heard before the Honorable Mr Justice Miller at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL, on Monday, the 27th day of July 1992.

7. NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN THAT: Notice is hereby given that the Honorable Mr Justice Miller at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL, on Monday, the 27th day of July 1992.

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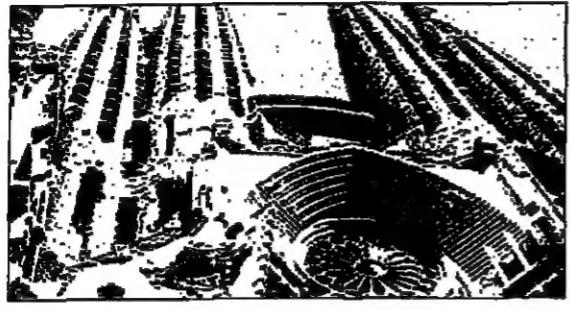
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BBC1

6.00 Cefax (61622) 6.30 Breakfast News (50550158)
 9.05 Bravestarr. Animation (7520061) 9.25 Now Then. What life was like for the children of Roman commander of the Roman fort on Hadrian's Wall (10165958)
 10.00 News: regional news and weather (4242993) 10.05 Playdays (r) (6463254) 10.30 Lassie. The canny canine saves a steer from its sadistic owner (7054790) 10.45 T'N'T. Showbiz magazine (s) (7059245)
 11.00 News: regional news and weather (8922993) 11.05 The Flying Doctors (r) (Cefax) (s) (7203429) 11.50 Cartoon (210167)
 12.00 News: regional news and weather (5269158) 12.05 Summer Scene presented by Linda Mitchell and Caron Keating (8014974) 12.35 Region One Newsround (7054790)
 1.00 On Your Neighbours (Cefax) (s) (19113790) 1.50 Talk To The Animals. A profile of Samanthu Khuri who claims that she can communicate with animals and has a long list of testimonials from racehorse trainers, zoo keepers and pet owners to back her story (7189264)
 2.45 Film: East of Sumatra (1953) starring Jeff Chandler, Marilyn Maxwell and Anthony Quinn. Routine drama set on a Pacific island about a mining engineer having to mollify the local chief after an edict from the mine's head office antagonises him. Directed by Budd Boetticher (2885500)
 4.10 Babar. Cartoon adventures of an elephant family (2738177) 4.35 Uncle Jack and Operation Green. The final episode of the children's environmental comedy series. Starring Paul Jones, Fenella Fielding and Vivian Pickles (r) (Cefax) (s) (5881061)
 5.00 Six O'Clock News (5945210) 5.10 Record Breakers presented by Roy Castle and Cheryl Baker (r) (Cefax) (s) (8043871)
 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Cefax) (s) (354332). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
 6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sessions and Anna Ford. (Cefax) Weather (871)
 6.30 Regional News Magazines (351), Northern Ireland: Neighbours 7.00 Top of the Pops presented by Mark Franklin (s) (9239)
 7.30 EastEnders. (Cefax) (s) (535)
 8.00 Every Second Counts. Against-the-clock game show (1887)
 8.30 Ruse Abbott. Comedy sketches show. With Bella Emberg, Lisa Maxwell, Tom Bright and Sharron Hewson (s) (Cefax) (s) (3622)
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Martyn Lewis. (Cefax) Regional news and weather (2036)
 9.30 999. Michael Buerk continues his series on the unsung work of Britain's emergency services with reconstructions of the rescue of a man on a lift roof in an Edinburgh tower block and how two navy divers sent to save 40 men, women and children from a sinking ship off the Devon coast ended up having to be rescued themselves. (Cefax) (s) (695351)



Saved by tourism: the Sagrada Familia cathedral (10.20pm)

10.20 Omnibus Special: Barcelona with Robert Hughes.

● CHOICE: In the *Omnibus* special, it's not so much the shock of the new we get from Hughes as he guides us through the Olympic city. It's more the shock of the new Hughes. Barcelona was the cradle of Joan Miró, and in *The Shock of the New*, his 1980 history of modern art, Hughes expounded on the mutual indebtedness between painter and city. Yet, in tonight's film, Miró ("the best pure painter among the surrealists", wrote Hughes in 1980) rates hardly a mention. It's the gorgeous Palau de la Musica that now fascinates Hughes, the heart-lifting workers' church of St. Maria del Mar, the cemetery with "the best sea views in Barcelona" (a nice touch of Hughes irony) and, of course, the unfinished Sagrada Familia, which Hughes (more irony) notes is the first Christian cathedral in the West to be saved by Shinto tourism. (Cefax) (388719)

11.10 Film: Promise (1986) starring James Garner and James Woods. An award-winning drama about a fur-loving bachelor who is made to keep his long-forgotten promise to look after his schizophrenic brother after the death of their mother. Directed by Glenn Jordan (372429) 12.50am Weather (4886185). Ends at 12.55

2.15 BBC Select: Executive Business Club (55314). Ends at 2.45

BBC2

6.45 Open University Science — Fires of Life 7.10 Ferrara: Planning the Ideal City (9036429). Ends at 7.35
 8.00 Breakfast News (5055321) 8.30 Home and Garden (3221055)
 9.00 Five-minute Thrill. Phil Daniels talks to Roy Tomlin about the things that give him most enjoyment (r) (727500)
 9.30 Film: Tarzan's Hidden Jungle (1955). Paul Scott Gordon Scott and Vera Miles. Familiarly, the jungle hero enlists the help of a herd of elephants to help to thwart an attempt by poachers to collect animal skins and ivory to be sold on the black market. Directed by Harold Schuster (3013968)
 10.40 Made by Man. The skills of Dutch craftsmen restoring old film material (r) (7058156)
 10.55 Golf. Steve Dohler produces live coverage of the first round of the Open from Muirfield (s) (78941051)
 1.20 Bertha. Children's animated series (r) (23292857)
 1.35 Goff. Further first round coverage of the Open from Muirfield (s) (2131158). Includes news and weather at 2.00, 3.00 and 3.50
 7.30 Business Matters: Making the Best of Things. David Lomax reports from the Philippines on how Elena Lam has become one of the world's most successful businesswomen (177)



Firing: John Fashanu investigates a lame cure (8.00pm)

8.00 On the Line. Investigative sports programme introduced by John Fashanu. This week's subjects include firing — the controversial method of curing lame racehorses that has been banned in this country by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons but is legal in the Irish Republic, where trainers now send their lame charges (9429)

8.30 Wildlife Showcase: The Beach Boys. An Italian-made film focusing on violent clashes between sea lions based on the Patagonian beaches. (Cefax) (1264)

9.00 The Travel Show. Paddy Haycock investigates Weymouth's challenge to the Costas and Carol Smillie samples Salou on Spain's Costa Dorada (8158)

9.30 Pandora's Box: A is for Atom.

● CHOICE. It isn't only atom that A stands for in Alan Curtis's disquieting film. It's apocalypse, adventurism and abomination, too, plus anti-personnel. One thing A doesn't stand for in the film is ambiguity. Surveying the history of nuclear science from the early research in the Los Alamos laboratory to the disaster at Chernobyl, it depicts the perpetrators of self-deception and fatal compromise. Curtis sets the nightmare realities against predictions that would be laughable if the context was not the survival of the human race. "With atomic power, mankind comes nearer to its dream of a new and better earth," says Eisenhower, inaugurating America's first atomic power plant. And a young lad prepares to crack a giant peanut grown from seeds radiated in an atomic reactor... (22610) 10.30 Newsnight with Frandine Stock (702055)

11.15 Golf. Highlights of the first round of the Open from Muirfield (s) (578790) 11.55 Weather (657516)

12.00 Weekend Outlook. A preview of the Open University's weekend programmes (3132678) 12.05 Open University: Technology — The Tonga People of the Zambez Valley (1021765)

12.30 Film: Winter Kills (1979) starring Jeff Bridges, Anthony Perkins, Elizabeth Taylor and John Huston. Black comedy about the younger brother of an assassinated president of the United States who investigates the killing and uncovers all manner of skeletons in the cupboard. Directed by William Richert. (Cefax) (38314)

2.00 The Road to the White House. Live coverage of the Democratic convention in New York (20521543). Ends at 4.05

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes
 The numbers now appearing next to each programme listing are Video PlusCodes, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ hander. VideoPlus+ can be used with most decks. Tap in the VideoPlus+ code for the programme you wish to record. For more details call VideoPlus+ on 0893 12 1204 (calls charged at 4p per minute peak, 2p off-peak) or write to VideoPlus+, 77 Fulham Palace Road, London SW6 8JA. Videoplus+, Pluscode and VideoPlus+ are trademarks of Gemstar Marketing Ltd.

SKY NEWS

● Via the Astra and Marcopolo satellites
 6.00am The DJ Set Show (91464906) 8.40 Mr Pepperpot (s) (6125953) 8.55 Playabout (7588055) 9.10 Cartoons (s) (611581) 9.30 The Pyramid (s) (64351) 10.05 Let's Make a Deal (285261) 10.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (s) (611581) 10.45 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 11.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 11.45 Beyond the Stars (s) (624001) 12.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 12.45 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 13.00 Gerald (s) (611581) 13.30 The Bold and the Beautiful (s) (611581) 14.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 14.45 Beyond the Stars (s) (624001) 15.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 15.45 The Bold and the Beautiful (s) (611581) 16.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 16.45 Beyond the Stars (s) (624001) 17.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 17.45 The Bold and the Beautiful (s) (611581) 18.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 18.45 Beyond the Stars (s) (624001) 19.00 The Young and the Restless (s) (624001) 19.45 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